Daily Report

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Alia Rejects Demands for Resignation

LD1609184391 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Albanian President Ramiz Alia, currently in Finland, rejects Albanian demands for his resignation. A large demonstration was held on 14 September in Tirana to express demands for the president's resignation and for the removal of all Communist symbols from Albania. President Alia said at his Helsinki news conference that, because the Albanian legislature elected him, he is responsible only to the legislature. President Alia today in Helsinki signed the CSCE Final Act, approved in 1975. Albania was accepted as a CSCE member last June.

Pashko Outlines Objectives of Brussels Roundtable

AU1609142391 Tirana ATA in English 0901 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prior to his departure, Dr. Gramoz Pashko stated:

The conference in which we will take part is organised with the participation of the IMF and World Bank representatives, the CSCE member countries, etc. It aims at better coordinating the aids to be accorded to Albania soon. The four main directions of this aid have been defined: food aid, the covering of the balance of payments for raw and auxiliary materials, foreign investments in Albania, technical-scientific assistance for the economic reform initiated in our country on the whole.

We aim at showing firstly what we have managed to do in the field of the democratic reforms to convince the participants of the Brussels conference that we could not ask for aids if it were not true that we had really done something on the road of reforms and secondly, which are Albania's capabilities to absorb this aid.

Undoubtedly we hope that the food aid will continue after December this year till the end of the coming spring, to supply the balance of import payments to that extent we are able to import the necessary goods with our currency possibilities. We also hope to attain an aid for the privatisation of agriculture. The building where the conference is going to be held has hundreds of offices. But we hope we shall knock at reliable doors.

Kapllani on Moscow Human Dimension Conference

LD1609024991 Tirana Radio Tirana in English 2130 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani by an unidentified Radio Tirana correspondent in Tirana; date not given; correspondent in English; Kapllani in Albanian fading into English translation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Kapllani, you took part in the Moscow Conference on the Human Dimension. What's your opinion of this conference and the Albanian participation in this important meeting?

[Kapllani] The Moscow meeting known as the Conference on the Human Dimension was the most important meeting held on this issue after the Helsinki conference. The duty of the conference was to examine the achievements in the field of human rights after the Copenhagen and Vienna meetings and to change opinions or to make concrete proposals on improving the mechanisms of control and implementation of human rights. Seen from this angle the conference was of especial importance. It was not occasional [as heard] that 35 European foreign ministers including three foreign ministers from the Baltic countries participated in the conference. The aim of the meeting was the human dimension seen from a pronounced political angle not separated from the current developments in Europe and in the Balkans as well. It is for this reason that our participation attracted the attention of the other countries and was praised by them. The human rights problem in our country, that is in an important transition period towards a new pluralistic democracy, constitutes an important direction of the democratic development. We went to Moscow both to learn from the experience of the others and to show what we have done in Albania in the context of the democratic processes.

[Correspondent] During the conference you had also contacts with high Soviet personalities, including President Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and others. What is your impression of this?

[Kapllani] It is true that President Gorbachev received the chairmen of the participating delegations and I had the occasion to meet with the Soviet President too. I (?was proud) that this very cordial talk was held in the atmosphere that the failure of the military coup in the Soviet Union has created on an international scale. President Gorbachev voiced great sympathy for the Albanian people and the democratic processes in Albania.

[Correspondent] The representatives in the conference expressed vivid interest in Albania. Can you make a brief account of this?

[Kapllani] The Dutch foreign minister, the acting chairman of the EC, Hans Van Den Broek, who spoke in the name of the 12 hailed the Albanian participation in the conference and (?said that we look forward) with special interest for positive changes in Albania in the field of democracy. He expressed the conviction that Albania will march on this road and will become part of the European family. The Belgian foreign minister stressed that the Albanian participation is of special importance for the problem the conference is discussing is also a universal one. The French foreign minister, Dumas, was also (?significative). He said that now Albania comes as a full member of the CSCE after the

German unification and after the full participation of the Baltic republics. He (?makes out) that the European [word indistinct] (?objectives have included) its crystallization. The Vatican foreign minister said that a spreading of religion in Albania was an important indication how human rights are being implemented in this country. All the delegations considered the participation of Albania as necessary and useful. The majority of the delegations spoke also about the Yugoslav crisis, the dramatic developments and the grave situation of the Albanians in Kosovo and Yugoslavia. Speaking on human rights at a time when flagrant violations occur in the middle of Europe, such as the case of the Albanians in Yugoslavia, is normal, because, as it has been called, Kosovo is the heart, the conscience of the Continent. The rights of 3 million people in Yugoslavia who are suffering a genuine genocide cannot be neglected. This is an apartheid in the middle of Europe in the end of the 20th century and it is thus the reason why Europe cannot keep silent on this issue. In fact it expressed this stand through the foreign ministers also in this conference on human rights.

[Announcer] That was an interview with the Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani.

Alia Holds Talks With Hungarian Leaders

Alia Meets President Goncz

AU1609140691 Tirana ATA in English 0759 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 16 (ATA)—The president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, and the president of the Republic of Hungary, Arpad Goncz, met in Budapest on September 15 and had talks on the promotion of bilateral relations and on regional and international problems of mutual interest.

In the course of the meeting they underscored that the democratic transformations in both countries have created a favourable climate for the extension of the Albanian-Hungarian relations. They came to the conclusion that vast possibilities exist to enhance economic, industrial, technical-scientific, cultural, financial cooperation.

The two heads of states aired their opinions in support of the positive changes in the European continent. At the same time they stressed that both countries are mutually interested in taking part in various regional initiatives and support each other in this respect.

During the meeting opinions were exchanged on the grave Yugoslav crisis. It was pointed out that the problems Yugoslavia is facing cannot be solved through war and bloodshed, but through democratic and peaceful means in conformity with the demands of the CSCE and of the Paris Charter on the observation of national and human rights of the peoples. Both parties voiced their common preoccupation for the situation in Yugoslavia and underscored that there can be no final solution of the Yugoslav question without the participation of the representatives of the Albanian population and of the Hungarian minority living in Yugoslavia and without taking into consideration their just demands. The Albanian president and the Hungarian one were of the same opinion in this respect.

The Albanian president, Ramiz Alia, invited the Hungarian president to visit Albania.

Alia, Prime Minister Antall Meet

AU1609140991 Tirana ATA in English 0805 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 16 (ATA)—The president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, met and had talks with the Hungarian premier, Jozsef Antall, at the seat of the Hungarian Parliament on September 15, afternoon.

Premier Antall pointed to the traditional friendship and links between our two peoples, deeply rooted in history since the time of Hunyadi's alliance with Skenderbeg. These links preserve their values even nowadays, when immense democratic changes are occurring in Central and Eastern Europe. Our two countries, the Hungarian premier said further on, are similar in certain points stemming from the reality of the qualitative transformations that are occurring. He underscored that although Hungary was the pioneer of the reforms in this region, it still has its own problems. We, Premier Antall said, understand that Albania is facing many problems and difficulties. He spoke of the importance the creation of political stability and legal framework, the promotion of the parliamentarian democracy with the aim of drawing foreign investments for Albania. Europe too should help our countries.

President Ramiz Alia voiced the satisfaction over the visit he is paying to that country, from whose experience Albania has much to learn regarding its developments. In continuation, he made an expose of the political and economic situation of our country, pointing out the difficulties we are undergoing in this period of transition. We, Ramiz Alia said, have embarked on a road which is irreversible. We are not mending the old system, but we are building a new one.

In the course of the meeting they spoke on the level of economic relations between the two countries and their perspective.

The interlocutors treated of political problems of the situation in the Balkans, dwelling particularly on the Yugoslav crisis. Hailing the work of The Hague Peace Conference on Yugoslavia, President Ramiz Alia underscored that it should take into consideration the political will of the Albanians of Kosovo and Hungarians of Vojvodina.

During the talks they spoke on other regional and international matters, too.

The Albanian delegation headed by the president is made up by the minister of foreign affairs, Muhamet Kapllani; the chairmen of parliamentary groups, Ismail Lleshi and Neritan Ceka, and others.

Attending the talks were the ambassador of the Republic of Albania in Budapest, Yani Polemna, and the ambassador of the Republic of Hungary in Tirana, Ferenc Poka.

During his stay in Budapest, President Ramiz Alia and the persons accompanying him visited historical and cultural resorts.

In honour of the President Ramiz Alia, the minister of foreign affairs of Hungary, Geza Jeszenszky gave a cocktail at the government seat.

Macedonian Prime Minister Kljusev on Cooperation

AU1609164491 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Statement by Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Kljusev; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Relations between Albania and Macedonia, as two neighboring countries, are developing well in the interests of both countries. Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Kljusev gave an interview to our correspondent on this subject.

[Kljusev, in Macedonian, fading into superimposed Albanian translation] I am pleased to meet Albanian Radio and Television correspondents once again. The first occasion on which I had this pleasure was during my visit to Albania, and I state that the relations we established with the Republic of Albania represent a range of initiatives that will be valuable for both our countries. This is a good opportunity to exploit the advantages that each country possesses. We are determined to make something concrete out of these relations, and the first steps we have taken indicate success.

During the Albanian delegation's visit to Ohrid, talks were held about economic cooperation, and I think that a range of trade opportunities exists. Our enterprises are preparing offers and contracts, and it will be a pleasure for us to begin this cooperation as soon as possible.

Some goods for this trade are now ready. We are waiting for a reply from the Albanian side about the air corridor from Skopje to Tirana and thence to Italy. Our wish is to reach a tourist agreement about a section of Durres beach. We have concluded a chrome agreement and will also sign a ferronickel agreement. We are interested in exporting a broad range of everyday consumer goods to Albania, and the relevant lists are now being compiled.

As for the idea we have suggested of rebuilding the old Via Egnatia [Roman road from Durres to Constantinople] to connect Italy with Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey, which is a large project and will involve a schedule for the opening stages and cooperation with international finance agencies, we expect to conclude an agreement on this cooperation as soon as possible.

Cooperation in science and culture is also of interest in the cooperation between our two countries.

We are likewise trying to liberalize movements across the border and to facilitate contacts between the Albanian and the Macedonian populations for various purposes. This will open up the possibility of opening up a region that has been closed for decades and gives hope for a new conception of relations between countries and individuals, such as Europe demands, and that responds to the desire of our two countries to live in a common home.

I also wish to stress that you have found in us a form of partnership that will bring mutual benefits.

We have very gladly embarked on the process of democratic cooperation and we will respect the standards and criteria of the CSCE and the Paris Charter in connection with nationalities and national minorities. I want to assure the Albanian people and Albania that we as their kin-state will respect all their rights. For our part, we are trying to gradually solve all the problems concerning the Albanian population living in Macedonia. Allow me once again to express my pleasure at the close cooperation with the Republic of Albania in all fields that are in the interests of our two countries.

Leaders Meet Kosovo National Unity Party Delegation

Bufi Receives Delegation

AU1609190491 Tirana ATA in English 1808 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 16 (ATA)—The prime minister, Ylli Bufi, received the delegation of the National Unity Party of Kosovo, headed by Prof. Dr. Bahri Brisku, vice-chairman of this party.

After expressing the satisfaction over this meeting, Prime Minister Ylli Bufi spoke among others of the importance the National Stability Government devotes to the national cause of Kosovo, considering it as one of its main duties. He underscored that Kosovo's issue has been treated by the government in all the contacts it has had with the personalities of other countries and international organisms. The prime minister spoke to the brothers from Kosovo of the targets of the Albanian Government regarding the economic reform and the country's stability underlining that decisive in this respect are the foreign economic and financial aid and support of the political parties and trade unions. Speaking of the privatisation of economy, he said that in this aspect priority will be given to the Albanians within and outside the homeland.

After thanking for the reception, Prof. Dr. Bahri Brisku informed the prime minister of the situation in Kosovo, which has deteriorated due to the anti-Albanian policy of the Serbian leadership. He and the other delegation members took interest in Albania's ever faster economic consolidation, which contributes to Kosovo's national question. They laid the stress on the necessity of holding an all-national assembly for the unity of the Albanians, expressed the readiness to help concretely in getting schools ready and expressed opinions on how Albanian intellectuals from the diaspora may help Albania perform the economic reform.

Attending the reception, which passed in a fraternal atmosphere, was also the chairman of the Albanian National Unity Party, Idajet Beqiri.

DFA's Lushaj Receives Group

AU1609190391 Tirana ATA in English 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 16 (ATA)—The secretary of the Steering Council of the DFA [Democratic Front of Albania], Zeqir Lushaj, received in the seat of this organisation the delegation of the National Unity Party of Kosovo headed by Prof. Dr. Bahri Brisku, vice-chairman of this party, and the persons accompanying him, on September 16, before noon.

He informed the Kosovar brothers on the work carried out by the Steering Council of the DFA to change the content of the work of this organisation in the new conditions of political pluralism. Now, we need an all-people's organisation independent from the political parties and open to all. This new organisation, in the form of the Albanian National Union, will be open to all Albanians wherever they live and will have as its main goal the unity, the unification and reconciliation of the people.

On his part, Prof. Dr. Bahri Brisku endorsed the necessity of a such organisation for all the Albanians and said that this will enjoy the support of all Albanians not only in the Albanian territories in Yugoslavia but in the diaspora as well. He and the other members of the delegation informed of the grave situation in Kosovo occupied by Serbia. Likewise, he spoke of the understanding they are developing with the political forces in Albania during this visit.

On September 16, before noon, the chairman of the Albanian Ecological Party, Namik Hoti, received the chairman of the National Unity Party, Prof. Dr. Bahri Brisku, and other members of the delegation.

Mr. Namik Hoti briefed the Kosovo brothers on the contribution of the Ecological Party for the deepening of the democratizing processes, the application of the economic, political, social reforms in Albania, etc. He condemned the violence and savage repression of Serbia towards the Albanians in Kosovo and other territories in Yugoslavia. Our party, he stressed, supports the organisation of a great all-national assembly with the participation of all the political forces both in Albania and in Kosovo. The Ecological Party, its chairman declared, is ready to make any party sacrifice for the sake of the national interests and unity of our people.

Prof. Dr. Bahri Brisku thanked for the warm and fraternal reception and assessed the contribution of the Ecological Party for the strengthening of the national unity. He underlined that today more than ever the Albanians should be united and in solidarity with each other and should fight to attain their goal through their joint work and struggle.

Bufi Receives Political Prisoners Chairman

AU1609190291 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Statement by Council of Ministers' Press and Information Office issued in Tirana on 16 September]

[Text] Prime Minister Ylli Bufi met today with Mr. Osman Kazazi, chairman of the Initiating Commission of the Association of Albanian Political Prisoners, and Mr. Gjergj Fitani, the commission's general secretary. After acquainting himself at length with the demands this association has sent to the People's Assembly, the president, and the government, he promised to create a government commission that will specifically deal with solving these problems. The prime minister stressed that the government will do everything within its competence and that of the state organs to solve the problems raised in the demands sent to the government by the Association of Political Prisoners.

Directorate Reports August Economic Results

AU1509185291 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Announcement by Statistics Directorate—date not given]

[Text] General industrial production rose by 15 percent in August compared with July. It amounted to 47 percent of August 1990 production, or 707 million leks less. Many indicators, including important production indicators, recorded a larger deficit. The July deficit of 736 million leks was reduced by 29 million leks. During the first eight months of this year, the value of production was 4.8 billion leks less than during the same period last year. Of the 450 industrial production enterprises, 400 did not meet their production quotas. The worst were the enterprises under the Ministry of Mining and Energy Resources, which in August produced 68 percent less than in the same month last year; enterprises under the Construction Ministry, 55 percent less; and enterprises under the General Engineering Directorate, 54 percent less.

Significant deficits were also recorded in the production of copper concentrate, blister copper, copper wire and cables, ferronickel, calcinated caustic soda, PVC, detergent, cement, knitwear, and soap.

The hydroelectric stations' production continues to rise every month. During the first eight months of this year, electricity production was 341 million kilowatt-hours higher than in the same period last year. The production of ferrochrome, pig iron, nickel, phosphate fertilizer, urea, bricks, and shoes was higher in August than in July.

Construction work and freight transportation and other sectors declined in August. Work stoppages because of raw materials shortages continue to increase. An average of 20,300 workers were idle each day in the January-August period this year.

Ministry Urges Faster Land Distribution

AU1509162491 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Agriculture Ministry statement—date not given]

[Text] Land distribution has still not begun in three of the country's 27 districts—Tropoje, Kolonje, and Shkoder. By 14 September, land was being distributed in 420 villages, and 17,441 families had received land. A total of 10,612 hectares of land have been distributed. Besides the districts of Permet, Pogradec, and Tepelene, the districts of Elbasan, Librazhd, Puke, Gramsh, Fier, and Tirana have been working at a faster tempo in recent days.

Work has been proceeding slowly in Skrapar, Durres, Gjirokaster, Lezhe, Kruje, Korce, and so forth. In these districts, clumsiness is apparent on the part of the village land commissions, especially in concluding the calculations and comparisons of land areas. These delays will bring consequences at a time when the peasants in these and other districts are calling for faster completion of the preparatory work and the granting of land as soon as possible.

Bureaucratic practices and lengthy discussions are also apparent in the districts of Sarande, Mirdite, Berat, and some other districts, in which the number of villagers receiving land has hardly increased at all in the last week. It has now become clear that stick-in-the-mud ideas obstructing land distribution are harming the interests of the peasantry. The land commissions must therefore work more intensively, overcoming every obstacle that arises in the course of their work.

Deputy Prime Minister Reports on USSR Visit

AU1709083491 Sofia BTA in English 1719 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 16 (BTA)—Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandur Tomov told a news conference today that his working visit to Moscow September 13-14 was extremely fruitful. Mr. Tomov said that his visit had been arranged by a telephone conversation with Eduard Shevardnadze at the time of the attempted coup in Moscow. At meetings with Eduard Shevardnadze, Aleksandur Yakovlev and Ministry officials Mr. Tomov discussed the political situation in the Soviet Union. According to Mr. Shevardnadze, the new bodies of state power in the Soviet Union will be formed in a month and a half. The sides also considered ways to settle the relations between Bulgaria and the individual republics, as well as the process of European integration.

Mr. Tomov said that the problem of who will take over the economic commitments after the disintegration of what is now the Soviet Union is one of the major concerns now. Bulgaria will insist that the Russian Government accept the clearing liabilities because Russia accounts for 85 percent of Bulgarian-Soviet trade. The remaining 15 percent will be negotiated directly with the republics. According to Mr. Tomov, Bulgaria has been somewhat taken aback by the changes in the Soviet Union. However, it has already concluded agreements with Russia and Belorussia and drafted agreements with the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Deputy Prime Minister Tomov said that Bulgaria would seek ways to end the Russian monopoly on oil imports and its dependence on Russian energy resources. "This will be difficult because it will cost millions of dollars," he said.

Mr. Tomov said that Russian Premier Silayev had suggested to the Bulgarian Government and the governments of the other former COMECON members a new economic union. According to him, the union's founding document is very liberal but Bulgaria should carefully consider its decision to join or not to join it. Mr. Tomov believes that such a decision could be made by the next government after market mechanisms take shape in the republics.

Macedonian Prime Minister's 1-Day Official Visit

Predeparture Interview

AU1709084291 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] I will briefly inform you about an interview with Mr. Nikola Kljusev, prime minister of the Republic of Macedonia, by our colleague Stefan Velev from the Balkan Information Pool on the occasion of the Macedonian prime minister's forthcoming visit to Bulgaria.

A totally politicized and extremely ideologized atmosphere divided peoples in the recent past. We were looking for friends at the other end of the world, while neighboring peoples hated each other, the Macedonian prime minister said. This should be overcome by normal, renewed cooperation and the mutual association of the Balkan peoples, which also applies to relations between the Bulgarian and the Macedonian peoples, Mr. Kljusev further pointed out.

The Republic of Macedonia today is trying to overcome an economically and politically ineffective system, which is inherited from the period of ideological dogmas. However, prerequisites for democratization already exist in Macedonia or are about to be created.

The democratization processes in Bulgaria, which we are following with great attention, are positive and lead to the common European home.

The Macedonian prime minister added that, through the recent referendum, the Macedonian people supported the policy of its leadership aimed at solving the crucial nationality, political, and military problems that currently prevail in Yugoslavia.

We wish that the newly established sovereign states in Yugoslavia may decide on their future, free of centralism and hegemony. Macedonia will defend its internal borders, which still exist within Yugoslavia, but it has no territorial claims toward Bulgaria, Greece, and Albania. Macedonia desires total cooperation with these countries in all spheres.

In connection with the forthcoming tripartite meeting in Greece, Mr. Kljusev declined to answer the question about his possible attendance in the case of his being invited.

As far as the basic levers of cooperation between Bulgaria and Macedonia are concerned, Nikola Kljusev summed up the situation as follows:

We will rely on such levers as soon as both sides distance themselves from political and economic plots. Let us not forget the historical facts that divided us, and let us prevent all new scenarios likely to evoke hatred and enmity. We will cooperate to create conditions for free communications between our peoples.

This is what Mr. Nikola Kljusev stated at the end of his interview with the representative of the Balkan Information Pool.

Arrival on 17 Sep

AU1709081391 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] One hour ago, Dr. Nikola Kljusev, prime minister of the Republic of Macedonia, arrived in Bulgaria on a one-day official visit. He was greeted at Sofia Airport by Viktor Vulkov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs.

At the Boyana residence, a meeting between Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and Dr. Nikola Kljusev has begun. Afterward, official talks will begin. We will keep you informed.

Lukanov Interviewed on Business Trip to London

AU1309122391 Sofia FAKS in Bulgarian 10 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by Magdalena Videva]

[Text] I have no intention of seeking foreign employment, 53-year-old Andrey Lukanov told FAKS on the evening of 9 September, immediately after the plane from London had touched down at Sofia Airport. The former prime minister returned at 1935 on Balkan Air Flight 496.

It emerged that Mr. Lukanov had been in London on a private visit. He explained that Mr. Robert Maxwell had arranged for him to meet bankers and company leaders. Mr. Lukanov denied having any contact with Ognyan Doynov.

Following his talks with business circles, the former prime minister believes that Western Europe is becoming convinced that it must aid the East European countries and the new partners that are emerging with the breakup of the Soviet Union, and also maintain economic ties to them.

I am not worried by the fact that we have people like Nikolay Vasilev and Asen Michkovski, Lukanov declared in his letter of resignation from his post of deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, referring to the letter sent by the two leaders of ASO [Alternative Socialist Association] to the Bulgarian president.

Mr. Lukanov confirmed that he is maintaining contact with the European Bank chief, Jacques Attali.

Government on Election Financing, Turkish Language

AU1709075891 Sofia BTA in English 2018 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 16 (BTA)—At its meeting today the government decided that by September 18 the Ministry of Finance should allocate 7,200,000 leva from the budget which—in compliance with the Electoral Law—should be granted free and distributed proportionately among the parties, coalitions and independent candidates which polled more than 50,000 votes at last year's elections. Half of this amount will be granted in advance, and after the elections the parties and coalitions will either get additional funds or reimburse the sums they had received depending on the number of parliamentary seats they have won.

Parties, coalitions and independent candidates are entitled to short-term interest-free loans from the exchequer which, however, should not exceed three million leva per party.

* * *

The Council of ministers discussed today the proposal made by the minister of education, Mr. Matey Mateev, concerning the training of Turkish language teachers for the Bulgarian schools. The Ministry of Education suggested that a Turkish language and literature course be reintroduced this academic year at Sofia University and that 100 students be enrolled. This course was discontinued in the early 70's.

The government also discussed a question sent in writing to the Council of Ministers by Mr. Ahmed Dogan, leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), concerning the measures that are being taken for the training of Turkish language teachers. Mr. Dogan insists that all Bulgarian senior and junior liberal art colleges train Turkish language experts. The cabinet believes that it would be more adequate that Turkish language experts be trained at the higher educational establishments in the regions populated by ethnic Turks, but it will take a final decision when it receives more information on the capacities of the respective institutes of higher learning and the demand for Turkish language teachers.

BSP Election Candidate List Approved

AU1609131991 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 12 Sep 91 p 1

[DUMA PRESS report: "The BSP Election Lists Were Confirmed at Meeting of BSP Supreme Council"]

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] completed the final lists of BSP candidates in the coming elections. The meeting of the BSP Supreme Council lasted 24 hours. In a heated debate, occasionally accompanied by ultimatums, the representatives of the municipalities succeeded in most cases in defending the classification implemented by the Socialists in the municipalities and thus protected the "safe places" in the list of people who are popular in their municipalities.

Rosen Karadimov and Chavdar Kyuranov are the youngest and the oldest leaders of the lists, respectively. Karadimov is a candidate in the Yambol constituency and Kyuranov in the Burgas constituency.

Pleven and Kurdzhali did not have to quarrel over Andrey Lukanov; the BSP Supreme Council confirmed him as leader of both lists. Aleksandur Tomov (Mikhaylovgrad and Sofia) and Georgi Pirinski (Plovdiv and Sofia) also lead two lists each. The list for the third Sofia constituency is headed by Yanaki Stoilov.

The Blagoevgrad list is headed by Stefan Prodev; Varna by Velko Vulkanov; Veliko Turnovo by Dimitur Yonchev; Vidin by Mimi Vitkova; Vratsa by Filip Bokov; Gabrovo by Elena Poptodorova; Dobrich by Savka Yovkova; Kyustendil by Ivo Atanasov; Lovech by Nora Ananieva; Pazardzhik by Petya Shopova; Pernik by Stefan Stoilov; Razgrad

by Georgi Bozhinov; Ruse by Svetoslav Michev; Silistra by Krasimir Premyanov; Sliven by Yovcho Rusev; and Smolyan by Filip Ishpekov.

The Sofia regional constituency is headed by Sonya Mladenova; Stara Zagora by Aleksandur Lilov; Turgovishte by Zakhari Zakhariev; Shumen by Atanas Paparizov; and Khaskovo by Klara Marinova. The leader of the red list in one of the Plovdiv constituencies will be determined later.

Representatives of the parties forming the election coalition have been placed in second and third places on the lists.

Economists, jurists, and engineers dominate the BSP election lists. Physicians are well represented.

Valeri Petrov, Anzhel Vagenshtayn, and Dobrin Spasov refused to run for a second mandate, explaining their decision with personal considerations.

SDS News Conference: Candidates, Coalitions

AU1609182791 Sofia BTA in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by BTA correspondent Iva Toncheva: "Ministers Kostov and Pushkarov Top Union of Democratic Forces Lists of Candidates"]

[Text] Sofia, September 16 (BTA)—Mr. Ivan Kostov, minister of finance, and Mr. Ivan Pushkarov, minister of industry, trade and services, top two of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] lists of candidates. The Central Electoral Commission has yet to make a decision on the nomination of Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev, the press learnt at today's regular SDS news conference.

Some of the SDS lists feature members of the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party (Nikola Petkov BZNS), which two weeks ago decided to run on a separate ticket in the forthcoming elections. Nikola Petkov nominees, who are supported by the party's local branches, top the SDS lists in some places. "It is a different matter what the final decision of the leadership of the Nikola Petkov BZNS will be," Mr. Filip Dimitrov, SDS leader said. The SDS still considers the Nikola Petkov BZNS a natural ally and is disappointed by its decision to compete in the elections independently.

Mr. Stefan Savov, leader of the Democratic Party, said that no coalition had been contemplated with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS). Mr. Dimitrov and Mr. Savov said that the insistence on the part of the Bulgarian Socialist Party to bar the DPS, which had already been registered by the Central Electoral Commission, from the elections is aimed at heightening political tensions and postponing the elections.

Mr. Filip Dimitrov said there is a balance of power in the SDS coalition and that it is not dominated by any single party.

Mr. Lyubomir Sobadzhiev, leader of the Civil Initiative Movement, who is dissatisfied with the arrangement of the SDS lists, will hold a news conference on Wednesday.

SDS lists are topped by Filip Dimitrov, Prof. Nikolay Vasilev, leader of the Alternative Social Liberal Party, lawyers Stoyan Ganev, Snezhana Botusharova, Aleksandur Dzherov, Ilko Eskenazi, Economist Asen Michkovski, poetess Blaga Dimitrova, the Rev. Khristofor Subev, leader of the Salvation Christian Union, Stefan Savov, leader of the Democratic Party, Prof. Elka Konstantinova, leader of the Radical Democratic Party, Yordan Vasilev, Edvin Sugarev, Plamen Darakchiev and Aleksnadur Yordanov.

The SDS campaign Press Center was opened here today.

Podkrepa's Trenchev Reviews U.S. Visit

AU1409165291 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 9 Sep 91 p 1

[Report on interview with Konstantin Trenchev, chairman of the Bulgarian Podkrepa Labor Confederation, by Svetlomira Dimitrova; place and date not given: "Trenchev Has Returned From the United States and Is Even More"]

[Text] Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, chairman of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, returned from the United States yesterday. Upon his arrival at Sofia Airport, he said the following to a DEMOKRATSIYA reporter: "We had numerous meetings at the State Department and with the major U.S. trade union organizations, such as the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations [AFL-CIO]. We had talks with miners unions, many of which are concerned about the situation of our miners. They gave us valuable advice and assistance. I also met President Lane Kirkland. All these people cannot understand how we managed to be so far behind the times, while even the Soviet Union is about to put an end to the nightmare of communism—the greatest evil on earth."

According to Dr. Trenchev, Bulgarians should adopt actions similar to those in the Soviet Union. Because our Communist Party has changed its name to the Socialist Party, while being the legal heir of the Communist Party's property and its moral successor, it should simply be banned. Podkrepa intends to support the democratic process with all its efforts, despite the vaguely expressed Article 11 of the Constitution. If the destruction of the old totalitarian past is a political target, Podkrepa should undoubtedly violate the Constitution.

Dr. Trenchev paid an unofficial visit to the family of Princess Marie Louise who lives in Madison, New Jersey. The Podkrepa leader's talks with the princess were mostly related to the question of humanitarian assistance. A large amount of medical supplies from U.S. drug corporations has been collected for Bulgaria, Dr. Trenchev announced.

He explained that this was only the first part of his planned visit because he was ill when he left Bulgaria. U.S. physicians advised him to abstain from visiting Mexico because of the altitude and the great pollution in Mexico City. "My health problems were quite serious, but, thanks to the excellent treatment I received in the U.S. clinic where my wife is employed, the results are sastisfactory. I am ready for work, considering that great efforts are being expected of us here," Dr. Trenchev stated at the end of the interview.

Poll on Attitude to Political Parties Reported

AU1709084691 Sofia BTA in English 0805 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 17 (BTA)—"168 CHASA" carries the results of a representative poll conducted by a group of sociologists. The respondents were asked to define the different political forces. According to them, the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) is "authoritative, self-confident, competitive, peremptory, aggressive, imbalanced, and realistic," the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) is "dictatorial, adjusting and consistent," the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) is "compromising, tolerant, restless, temporizing, passive and dependent," the Business Party is "far-sighted."

47.7 percent of the respondents believe that the SDS is the force that is capable of carrying out the economic reform. 30 percent believe that this force is the BSDP [Bulgarian Social Democratic Party]. 33 percent trust the Bulgarian Business Party, 29 percent the BSP, 27 percent the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party and 25 percent the Bulgarian Agrarian Party.

The poll shows that the SDS's electorate is under 45 years of age, with varying qualifications, living mostly in Sofia and the big towns. The BSP's supporters are generally over 45 years of age, most of them live in small towns and villages. BSDP's supporters are mainly university graduates of different age, living mainly in bigger towns. The electorate of the Green Party is also mainly under 45 years of age, educated in specialized secondary schools or universities.

Turkish Students Boycott Schools in Protest

TA1609194191 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Turks in Bulgaria's Kircaali sector boycotted classes today to protest the lack of the Turkish language in the school curriculum.

According to information by TRT [TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION] correspondent Bulent Ayan, in accordance with a call by the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, a large number of Turkish families did not send their children to school today. As a result, several schools in which most of the students are Turkish could not begin the school year. The movement is calling for the Turkish language to be accepted as an obligatory language in schools, as is Bulgarian and Russian.

Names of More 'Supposed Agents' Published

AU1309125391 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 10 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by DEMOKRATSIYA staff: "The Script for 'Kompromat-III' Is Written by Another Author—Mr. Tambuev Denies Having List of Names of 80 State Security Agents"]

[Text] A list was submitted to the DEMOKRATSIYA editor's office containing the names of those deputies in the Grand National Assembly who allegedly are security service agents. It is possible that the majority of these MP's were full-time employees of the intelligence, counterintelligence, and military counterintelligence services.

In connection with this, we contacted Mr. Tambuev by telephone and asked him to comment on the list. The author of "Kompromat I and II" promised to give his opinion on the names of those published today [10 September].

Here are the names of the supposed agents:

First Main Directorate

1. Aleksandur Yankov
2. Nikolay Todorov
3. Viktor Vulkov
4. Elena Poptodorova
5. Ivan Genov
6. Yuliy Bakhnev
7. Filip Ishpekov

Second Main Directorate

1. Aleksandur Tomov
2. Rumen Vodenicharov
3. Petko Simeonov
4. Zhan Videnov

Third Main Directorate

1. Chavdar Kyuranov
2. Stefan Prodev
3. Anzhel Vagenshstayn

Sixth Main Directorate, Sixth Department

1. Klara Marinova
2. Rosen Karadimov
3. Leda Mileva
4. Dragomir Draganov
6. [figure as published] Krasimir Premyanov

High-Ranking Military Promotions Published

AU1609085691 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
7 Sep 91 p 2

[DUMA PRESS report: "Generals Take Up High-Ranking Command Posts"]

[Text] In line with the Ministry of Defense Collegium proposal, a group of generals have received their retirement orders effective from 1 March 1992. The President's Decree of 2 August 1991, reported in DUMA, is based on Article 100, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution and on Article 18, Paragraph 1, Letter a, and Paragraph 2 of the Law on General Military Service.

The following generals of the Bulgarian Army are released from their posts: Colonel General Radnyu Minchev; Lieutenant Generals Yako Molkhov, Mikho Bratovanov, Boris Grigorov, Angel Angelov, and Dimitur Popov; Major Generals Lyuben Dobrev, Mladen Mladenov, Strakhil Sotirov, Petur Bankov, Suyko Marinov, Todor Todorov, Todor Trifonov, Nikola Evtimov, Nayden Borimechkov, Serafim Velkov, Manol Vanev, Goran Todorov, Todor Donchev, Petur Saltirov, Penyo Kostadinov; and Rear Admiral Yovcho Georgiev.

Also by a decree of the Republic's president on 1 September 1991, the following generals and officers took up high-ranking command posts: Colonel General Lyuben Petrov—first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff; Lieutenant General Stoyan Topalov—first deputy chief of the General Staff; Lieutenant General Ivan Tsekov—head of the Ministry of Defense's Moral and Mental Preparation Department; Major General Stoimen Stoimenov—head of the Ministry of Defense's Press Center; Major General Khristo Popov—head of the Ministry of Defense's Military Construction Section; Lieutenant General Lyutskan Lyutskanov—commander of the Bulgarian Army's Ground Forces; Major General Nikola Nikolov—first deputy commander; Major General Boris Vakavliev—deputy chief of the General Staff; Major General Chavdar Chervenkov—deputy chief of the General Staff; Lieutenant General Grozdyu Grozdev—chief inspector of the Bulgarian Army; Major General Panto Pantev—head of the General Staff's Organization, Mobilization, and Planning Department; Captain First Rank Atanas Atanasov—head of the VKR [expansion unknown] Department of the General Staff; Colonel Lyubomir Gechev—head of the General Staff's Disarmament Inspectorate; Major General Petko Prokopiev—head of the Bulgarian Army's Ground Forces' Staff; Major General Angel Angelov—deputy commander of the Ground Forces and head of the Moral and Mental Preparation Department; Major General Lyubomir Vasilev—commander of the Second Army; Major General Tsvetan Totomirov—commander of the Third Army; and other generals and officers.

Government Attempts To Ensure Power Supplies

AU1609183091 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
13 Sep 91 p 1

[DUMA PRESS report]

[Text] Some 2,150,000 tonnes of oil, which includes 900,000 tonnes from the Soviet Union and 1,040 tonnes that will be paid for with credit from the World Bank and Japan and 210,000 tonnes with government credit from Libya, should be imported during the last quarter of 1991, according to a 12 September decision by the Council of Ministers.

By the end of September, the competent ministries will have to resolve the problems that have arisen recently regarding payment for oil, supplied by Libya, for the Pleven Petrochemical Combine. This will probably be paid for in the form of engineering services carried out by the Tekhnoeksportstroy Company.

The national power supply system, from 1 October to the end of March 1992, will have to guarantee 22.6 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, and the Power Supply Committee and the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Services will concern themselves with ensuring 510,000 tonnes of coal for the population and 120,000-130,000 tonnes of gas-oil for industrial and communal purposes.

Efforts will be made to import some 800 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, 510,000 tonnes of coal, and 1,750 million cubic meters of natural gas from the Soviet Union during the last quarter of 1991.

Production Slumps in Month of August

AU1709105391 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
13 Sep 91 p 2

[DUMA PRESS report: "Some 181 Companies Did Not Work During August"]

[Text] Figures from the National Statistics Institute indicate that 181 companies in Bulgaria had no production during August. These companies are mainly in the spheres of industry (112) and construction (19). Many of them are on holiday through necessity, and some of them are about to close. So far, over 204,000 employees have been released since the beginning of the year because of company or industrial closures and staff cutbacks.

The reasons behind the fall in production—19.1 percent less than for the same month in 1990—are a shortage of raw materials and materials, and unassured sales. Non-produced commodities during August amounted to 2,386 million leva.

Because of strikes during August, 196 million leva worth of production was not completed, in comparison to a monthly average of 1.5 million leva for the period January-July of this year.

This decrease in production is apparent in all branches, with the exception of the printing and publishing industry. Every second industrial company in the country has this falloff in production, and, for every third company, the decrease is over 40 percent.

The consumer price index for goods and services is 107.5 percent, in comparison with the previous month of July. The retail price index for foodstuffs is highest (115.99 percent). In comparison with July, only alcoholic drinks have come down in price (97.64 percent).

During the seven months of 1991, the average monthly salary was 641 leva. Compensation payments are also included in this figure, whose share is 45.6 percent of the total salary.

Figures Show Sharp Change in Exports, Imports

AU1609134291 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 10 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Evgeni Ivanov: "Despite General Decline, We Are Exporting More Than We Are Importing"]

[Text] From 1986 to the present, there has been a sharp drop in exports from Bulgaria to the rest of the world, a report from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, reviewed by the government, points out. Until the end of 1988, imports had grown slowly, after which there was a 10-percent drop in 1989 and an approximately 30-percent drop last year.

Violated trade credit agreements, which resulted in the 1990 moratorium on payment of foreign debts, significantly decreased imports into the country and negatively affected production and the export of goods. Despite this, imports have decreased twice as quickly as exports in comparison with the eight-month period last year.

On the other hand, the liberalization of the currency and trade regimes that aim to improve access to foreign markets have had the effect of stimulating, if not the tempo of, at least changes in the structure and the geographical orientation of foreign trade exchange, specialists claim.

While, in 1985, the correlation of territorial division of exports between the industrially developed and the developing countries was 37:63, in 1989 it became 55:45. This shows that, during the last two years, Bulgaria has improved its trade links to countries from the European Community, an expert in the field of foreign trade explained.

In his opinion, Bulgaria's exports to the 12 EC member states have grown from 531 million ECU [European Currency Unit] during 1989, to 584 million ECU during 1990, a 10-percent increase. By contrast, during the same period, our exports to the United States have decreased by 20 percent, and to Japan by 22 percent.

Where imports are concerned, the situation is the same: A significant decrease can also be observed from the three above-mentioned regions. However, the expert's opinion is that the last few years provide too low a base for comparison.

Analyses indicate a significant reduction in the percentage of exports of machinery and equipment at the expense of raw materials, materials, and food and consumer goods. The proportion of imported machines for use in production is also decreasing. This applies mostly to the fields of fuel, minerals, and metals. The proportion of chemicals, fertilizers, and rubber remains the same as in previous years.

Government Assumes Certain State Companies' Debts

AU1409165891 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 10 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Rupov]

[Text] On 9 September, the Council of Ministers decided that the state will assume over 4 million leva in debts owed by state enterprises. To achieve this, Ivan Pushkarov and Ivan Kostov proposed the formation of a guarantee fund of 800 million leva, which the enterprises will have at their disposal. This fund will be used to provide guarantees to the banks that do business with the enterprises. This decision resolved an important issue affecting our economic revival.

The updated state budget allows only 5 billion leva of the enterprises' debts to be converted into state debts. For this reason, the government temporarily set aside the problems of the energy industry, whose debts exceed 7 billion leva. After the World Bank experts have worked out a development strategy for this industry, the updated budget will be amended, and a decision probably will be adopted later.

The government is granting considerable latitude to the ministries. They will decide which companies and enterprises will have their debts converted, after assuming commitments to fulfill financial recovery programs and to follow the economic ministries' recommendations regarding energy savings, wages, and so on. Accordingly, only those enterprises able to demonstrate that they have a future can expect to have their debts canceled.

Of the 5 billion leva, 160 million leva will be used to capitalize interest payments due from 31 August to 31 December 1991 and to enable the state to take over the debts of failed state companies.

Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev stated that the government will ask the Bulgarian National Bank to exert pressure on the commercial banks, which are at present not behaving like banks. Steps will be taken to speed up the reorganization of the banking system, which, according to Ludzhev, is not fulfilling its role satisfactorily. The reorganization will be carried out in conformance with the accords reached with the IMF.

Companies in Debt Receive Government Help

AU1609132591 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
10 Sep 91 p 1

[Report by Evgeni Gabrilov: "Cabinet Gives a Lifeline to Companies in Debt"]

[Text] The debts of almost 140 state industrial, agricultural, and construction companies to the sum of approximately 4 billion leva will weigh on the state after the government decided to cancel them. Some 800 million leva will be put into the initiation of a fund for guaranteeing debts. Ways will be sought to increase the size of the fund. The state will take on 160 million leva as debts of companies whose activities were curtailed through bankruptcy and capitalized interest.

The pie is quite small, and those who want a piece of it are many, said Dimitur Ludzhev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. The deputy prime minister specified that the conditions and measures for the financial revitalization of companies will be carried out on a contractual basis between the debtors, banks, and the Finance Ministry.

The companies, some of which have had their debts canceled, will have to become involved in a program for financial stabilization and in the implementation of recommendations from respective specialized ministries that, on their part, must look for additional commodity credits, whose leva value should be used as a guarantee for debts.

Energy supply debts, which are in the region of 7 billion leva, and those of companies from the military industrial complex will have to become the subject of special government decisions. The opinion is emerging that, in the case of energy supplies, it is necessary to await the World Bank's program on the restructuring of this branch. Only partial resolutions can be found for the military industry because it has collected about 600 million leva worth of debts due to special government decisions, Dimitur Ludzhev stated.

In his opinion, the Cabinet has adopted the decree for transforming part of the companies' debts, knowing full well that it is totally insufficient but within the framework of the Updated State Budget Law, which envisages no more than 5 billion leva for this purpose, and the agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

PRC's Qian Continues Visit; Meets Reporters

LD1609222791 Prague CTK in English 2122 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sept 16 (CTK)—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen today told reporters he was pleased that Czechoslovakia assured him it recognises the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole representative of China and that Taiwan is a part of the PRC.

"I believe the Czechoslovak side came to the same conclusion in the question of Tibet," Qian said on the second day of his three-day official visit to Czechoslovakia. He said that before the trip China had been concerned about possible controversies in dialogue between the two countries.

Chinese-Czechoslovak trade is not considerably less than it was at its peak of over 1,000 million Swiss francs per year, Qian said, mainly because clearing trade has been replaced by payment in hard currency.

The twenty-year chill in Chinese-Czechoslovak relations, according to Qian, was due to the fact that the Prague leadership was subservient to the will of the Soviet Union. But now the two sides should be able to overcome their ideological differences and seek areas of agreement, he said.

On human rights, Qian said Czechoslovakia does not have enough information to judge the present situation in China. "I am glad I had the opportunity to explain my government's position on this issue."

(In an interview with Czechoslovak television, said Qian: "For a large country like China, human rights mean above all the right to existence and the right to development. What kind of human rights could one speak of if in a country of more than 1,000 million people there were not enough to eat?")

Qian rejected the claim that human rights are violated in tibet, pointing out the development the region has gone through since the era of feudalism. The biggest critics of tibet are those who have not been there, he said.

He also denied rumours that Beijing knew in advance of the coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Havel Meets Minister

LD1609172991 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] President Vaclav Havel received at Prague Castle today PRC Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen. The Czechoslovak president pointed out that our country has had long-lasting economic relations with China and that it is interested in continuing to maintain and develop them. At the same time he said that Czechoslovakia welcomes democratic processes in China and the fact that it is opening itself up to the world. The Chinese Guest emphasized that the aim of his visit is to further the development of friendship and understanding between the two countries and their economic cooperation.

Qian Views Relations

LD1609214191 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Interview with PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen by unidentified correspondent on 16 September in Prague; Qian speaks in Mandarin, fading to Czech translation; correspondent speaks in English, fading to Czech translation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister, leading Chinese representatives keep emphasizing that China must actively respond to the ever-changing world situation. Could you briefly describe the main principles of the current Chinese attitude to the former East European socialist countries?

[Qian] We always maintain that each country's future and its internal affairs should be resolved by the people of that particular country. States should respect each other and should not interfere in each others' internal affairs. They should be guided by the principles of equality and mutual advantages. Differences in the economic model, the development path, the social system, and ideology should not hamper developing relations between states. We respect these countries' choices precisely because we proceed from these principles.

[Correspondent] In what aspect has China's attitude toward postrevolution Czechoslovakia changed? Where do you see the main potential for further development of bilateral relations?

[Qian] Our relations with your country were not absolutely normal before the changes that occurred in Czechoslovakia. Our relations were ruled by a 20-year cooling period. Its causes did not rest in our countries themselves but were brought about by external influences. The situation is totally different now. Although the conditions of both China and Czechoslovakia differ, and although the views of certain issues and the ways of tackling them are also different, the number of issues we have in common is far greater. A profound and traditional friendship exists between the peoples of both countries. There are no basic conflicts of interest between our two countries. We respect each other's state sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We need a stable and peaceful international environment upon which to build. All this represents a common foundation for further developing mutual relations. There is every reason for the successful development of Sino-Czechoslovak relations, provided the external interferences are removed. Although foreign trade volume between the two countries has dropped slightly since the beginning of the year, the potential for further economic and trade relations between both countries

remains. Czechoslovak consumer goods enjoy a reasonably good reputation on the Chinese market, and Chinese consumer goods correspond to Czechoslovak citizens' needs as well. If both countries actively seek new possibilities and forms of cooperation, economic and trade relations between the two countries will undoubtedly be further developed.

[Correspondent] China declared its readiness to enter into human rights talks. Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu recently said that the Chinese methods to tackle this problem are not entirely understandable or clear to the international community. Could you clarify your approach to this issue and tell us when the processes with the activists who participated in the student movement two years ago will end?

[Qian] Our Constitution and laws guarantee wide-ranging rights, including various personal rights, to the people of all our country's nationalities. China has a deputy chairman on the UN Human Rights Committee and joined the seven agreements on human rights. Human rights means, above all, for a country of China's size, the right to exist and the right to develop. What human rights could be spoken about in the case of hunger in our country, where over one billion people live? Naturally, individual countries hold different views on the human rights issue. It is possible to exchange views on this issue to understand each other better. As far as the legal prosecution of a very small number of people who violated laws is concerned, this is an internal affair of our sovereign state. Any foreign government, organization, or individual intervention in this issue is unacceptable. The young students involved in the political turmoil of that time were not persecuted in any way, and it is not a court trial case at all.

Havel, Walesa Chair First Round of Plenary Talks

LD1609224491 Warsaw PAP in English 2118 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Prague, Sept. 16—President Lech Walesa paying his first official visit to Prague and the Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel chaired on Monday the first round of Polish-Czechoslovak plenary talks which covered not only bilateral questions but also European issues.

Both presidents stressed during the talks the necessity of coordinating actions within the Budapest-Prague-Warsaw triangle. Top level representatives of the three countries are to meet in Cracow on October 5-6 and it can be expected that the meeting will result in a "new, joint initiative covering economic issues, security matters and foreign policy", the Czechoslovak presidential spokesman announced here.

Presidents Walesa and Havel also agreed to shortly work out a joint Polish-Czechoslovak stand on the situation in the USSR. They also shared the opinion on the need of a European intervention in the dramatic situation in Yugoslavia.

President Walesa presented during the talks his idea of peace-keeping forces that could be formed to separate the warring sides in Europe. The proposal met with a positive reaction of the Czechoslovak side.

While discussing economic questions the sides pointed to the need of establishing a free trade zone and relaxing customs barriers.

The Polish and Czechoslovak presidents also had a conversation in private. In the evening President Havel gave a dinner in honour of the Polish guest.

Prague TV Interviews Walesa on EC Membership

LD1609235491 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 2025 GMT 16 Sep91

[Interview with Polish President Lech Walesa by unidentified correspondent in Prague on 16 September; Walesa in Polish fading to Czech translation—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] I would ask you a question about the relationship of Czechoslovakia and Poland with the EC—the question that was very topical last week. Are you personally going to work toward Poland joining the EC on her own, or are you in favor of Czechoslovakia, Poland, and also Hungary joining the EC together?

[Walesa] At first I thought that we could not join Europe separately. [sentence as heard] I did not speak about it because I thought that it was clear. After a while, I became familiar with the situation and realized that we needed each other and we had to join Europe together. This is what needs to be discussed and be considered as the fundamental point.

That is also why Poland will do nothing that would block or slow down the joining of Europe for the nations of Czechoslovakia or Hungary. This trend toward integration has to be recognized as a superior reality that can be of great help to us. I repeat this once more: Poland is not going to do anything to block Czechoslovak membership in the EC or fail to help it. Nevertheless, we should do this together; it is my conviction and I will fight for it.

[Correspondent] My next question concerns the political situation in Poland. On Saturday the Sejm did not approve extraordinary measures for the government; what impact is it going to have on the situation in Poland? [passage omitted]

[Walesa] This problem is, of course, much more complicated; we are paying the price for being the first ones required to hold very intensive talks with the communists. [passage omitted]

Nowadays, we tackle somewhat different problems than you do, and we are lagging behind a bit. The future

parliament is going to cooperate with the president more, as it is going to be a democratic parliament. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] My last question concerns one aspect of Polish foreign policy. Could you explain in greater detail Poland's current attitude toward Lithuania? What, in your view, is Polish policy with regard to the unchangeable nature of postwar borders in Europe?

[Walesa] I would like to say that we are living between two eras. Under the old era, we had objections to the borders. Individual areas were forever arguing. However, the new era envisages that the borders will provide a bond between us. [passage omitted]

Under the new thinking, all current problems, for example nationalities' conflicts, must be forgotten. The point is that the society in which we live envisages better contacts, and these contacts will yield better results. On the contrary, everyone who becomes divided and who looks inward will reap only losses, and there will be no benefit. [passage omitted]

Under our thinking, there are no dividing borders. The only borders that exist are the borders of improved contacts and information exchange. I think that it is important to speak about these issues now and to support these ideas. There will be no problems like minorities then. Minorities will, of course, exist especially in border areas, but there will be certain basis for better contacts and not the place for disputes; there will be no division or looking inward as it has been up till now.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, thank you for the interview.

Walesa, Havel Call For CSCE Peacekeeping Force

LD1609144191 Prague CTK in English 1352 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sept 16 (CTK)—Polish and Czechoslovak Presidents Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel today discussed the current crisis in Yugoslavia and called for the creation of a peacekeeping force under the auspices of the CSCE or another international organisation.

They also dealt with the course of ongoing political and economic changes in the two countries and with the creation of a free-trade zone.

Walesa called for a search for practical bilateral and trilateral solutions to problems and for coordinating action with Western Europe.

Czechoslovak and Polish Deputy Foreign Ministers Zdenek Matejka and Iwo Biczewski today signed a five-year agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation.

Czech Council Wants SFRY Republics Recognized

AU1609182191 Prague CTK in English 1237 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 12 (CTK) - The Czech National Council (parliament) today passed a resolution urging the Czechoslovak Federal Government to recognize the independence of the Yugoslav republics of Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia.

The resolution, which was approved unanimously, also notes that members of the Czech and Slovak minorities are being killed in Croatia.

A second unanimously accepted resolution calls for all Czechoslovak aid to Croatia to be directed not only to the 20,000-strong Czech minority but to the Croat nation as a whole.

The first part of the session was devoted to presentations by a visiting delegation of Croatian deputies, invited by the Czech National Council and the Czech Government's committee on international relations.

Djuro Vidmarovic, vice chairman of the Croatian parliament's Commission on International Relations, said Croatia is going through the most difficult period in its history, as military forces are destroying everything connected with the Croat nation.

He asserted that the Croatian Government is doing all it can to protect members of national minorities on Croatian territory from Serbian assimilation. The Czech minority in Croatia is threatened with genocide, he said.

The Czech parliament's resolution, submitted by Jiri Payne of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), says the National Council is alarmed by the conflict in Yugoslavia, which has changed into a war of terrorism.

It calls on the parliaments of every Yugoslav republic to solve the crisis and find a new constitutional arrangement for the country without the use of force, and appeals to all the states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), as well as the bodies of the Council of Europe, the European Community and the United Nations to pursue an immediate stop to the fighting in Yugoslavia.

"Your people deserve our respect and admiration for your struggle for democracy, for your determination not to give up your rights to freedom and sovereignty", declared Dagmar Buresova, chairwoman of the Czech parliament, in an address to the visiting Croatian deputies.

Dienstbier Discusses Draft Treaty With Germany

LD1309211291 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 2015 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier by unidentified correspondent, on 12 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] One of the most important items on the agenda of the Federal Government's meeting today was a discussion of the draft treaty between the CSFR and the FRG on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation. According to the government communique, this treaty, which is important with regard to the position of unified Germany in the newly shaping Europe, is to help, among other things, to foster mutually advantageous, all-around cooperation.

[Unidentified correspondent] I welcome Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstier. Good evening. Minister, it was you who introduced the draft treaty with Germany. You are deemed to have said at one time that no treaty was better than a bad one. Is the one you have submitted a good one?

[Dienstbier] I believe that it is a good one. However, it still includes certain variants. We had, of course, an interest to discuss the matter in detail so as to understand what we are signing.

[Correspondent] Did other members of the government have any objections to the draft treaty?

[Dienstbier] Members of the government did not object to the material submitted for discussion; indeed, the government has given me a mandate to finalize the last details with Minister Genscher, which we shall be doing by telephone tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Will the treaty be ready by 7 October, which is the date of the visit to Prague of Richard von Weizsaecker, the Federal President?

[Dienstbier] I believe that it should be ready because it does contains almost no contentious issues, and if it does, these are details that have to be finalized. The treaty should be ready also to ensure that President Weizsaecker's visit may be dignified and is not marred by continual questions and by questioning the treaty of which, on the whole, there is nothing to be questioned.

[Correspondent] You have, of course, mentioned details. What are they?

[Dienstbier] These are matters of formulation. Open questions also exist where there are several possible variant solutions—for instance, various offers in connection with claims for persecution and the like.

[Correspondent] Sudeten German property is, of course, a relatively sensitive question. Our stand has been repeatedly emphasized several times. What is Bonn's attitude on this question?

[Dienstbier] Our stand has not altered in any way. You already know Bonn's attitude. In view of the Federal Republic's Constitution, the German Government is unable to pledge itself to renounce possible private claims. Our government evidently cannot do this either because citizens could then claim against the state, something the state has renounced on their behalf. This is customary in a normal legal system. Therefore, property isues do not form part of this treaty. This, too, we have said on many occasions, and the matter will be stated in the accompanying letter. No one needs to be afraid of anything because we cannot envisage anyone putting forward property claims. This would be politically intolerable. However, should any individuals raise claims, he or she would have to raise them against the state that they would want to meet those claims, and the procedure will then be followed in accordance with the legislature of that particular state.

[Correspondent] Views have been aired in our legislature that we should advance restitution to embrace the period before 1948, which is at variance with government proposals. Will the government insist on its proposal?

[Dienstbier] The government, of course, persists in its attitude. I do not know what the political situation will be in six months or in a year's time, but I believe that we have gone far enough in the case of restitutions. I doubt and indeed do not believe that any important changes would be possisble in this regard. Some small amendments could still be made, not only in regard to restitution but also in regard to many other laws. I am, however, convinced that this can hardly go back before 1948.

Committee Issues Appeal for Slovak Sovereignty

AU1609134691 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 13 Sep 91 p 3

["Text" of the "Appeal to Citizens" by the Committee of the "For a Sovereign Slovakia" initiative, issued in Bratislava on 11 September]

[Text] We who have joined the "For a Sovereign Slovakia" initiative are turning to the citizens of the Slovak Republic with the following appeal:

The Slovak nation now has the historic and singular opportunity to assert its natural and inalienable right to its own sovereignty in a democratic way. The latest developments in Central and Eastern Europe have convinced us that the time has come for a decision. One cannot delay any longer the implementation of the fundamental right to state sovereignty on the basis of the enactment of the nations' right to self-determination.

We are calling on all citizens of the Slovak Republic, regardless of their political views, religion, and nationality, to support the idea of a democratic, sovereign Slovak Republic, a republic open to the world, as a subject under international law.

We are calling on the Slovak political representation to take a seat at the table of national consensus.

We are calling on deputies to the Slovak National Council to realize the seriousness of the situation, to rise above narrow party interests, and to declare as soon as possible the sovereignty of Slovakia and, following up on it, to promulgate the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

Only by declaring its sovereignty can the Slovak Republic join the community of European states as an equal partner.

Bratislava, 11 September 1991.

In the name of signatories:

Committee of the "For a Sovereign Slovakia" initiative.

Group Explains 'Initiative'

AU1609135691 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 14 Sep 91 pp 1-2

[CTK report: "What Kind of Sovereign Slovakia and Why?; The Political Sky Is All Ablaze Again"]

[Text] Bratislava/Prague— The "For a Sovereign Slovakia" (ZZS) initiative does not have a party character, but it pursues political objectives—to bring about the sovereignty of Slovakia by constitutional and democratic means and to bring about the adoption of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic by the Slovak National Council.

At the same time, the initiative is not concerned with the future shape of Czechoslovakia's constitutional arrangement. The initiative's basic philosophy is epitomized in the "Table of National Consensus," that is, in the unification of the political representation and the public of the Slovak Republic on the idea of Slovakia's sovereignty. Furthermore, the initiative proceeds from the philosophy of "point zero," that is, from drawing a line under everything that has been done until now and starting to deal with these issues in a principled fashion. This information came out of a news conference that was given by several signatories and members of the Committee of the ZZS initiative in Bratislava yesterday.

Jan Budaj, member of the initiative's Committee, said that the initiative's signatories do not seek the state's breakup. They are united on the idea of a sovereign Slovakia as a subject both in its own country and under international law. At the same time, he stressed that the initiative's Committee will reject any misuse of the ZZS by political parties and movements.

He drew attention to the fact that a signature-gathering campaign in support of Slovakia's sovereignty will be launched among citizens in a few days. In this connection he said that it is possible that public rallies will be held, yet he noted that the initiative is not after cheap populism.

Bartolomej Kunc, economic and legal adviser of the Christian Democratic Movement, added that the initiative is not opposed to the government coalition but can only enrich it. Jozef Markus, chairman of the Slovak National Heritage Foundation Committee, said that an indifferent, passive, and apathetic stand on these issues would be a betrayal not only of our contemporaries who want to live with their heads held high, but also of the previous generations that had fought and died for Slovakia's sovereignty. The nation's natural right to self-determination is involved here, he said.

The ideas of the ZZS initiative were also endorsed by representatives of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, the Slovak National Democratic Movement, the Slovak National Party, and the Party of Christian Democracy present at the news conference.

The ZZS initiative was set up by representatives of Slovakia's political, social, and cultural life at a meeting of the Slovak intelligentsia's "Roots" society on 11 September. Its appeal in support of a sovereign Slovakia has been endorsed by 35 signatories, among whom are Peter Brnak, Jan Budaj, Jozef Darmo, Ladislav Deak, Andrej and Jergus Ferko, Igor Gazdik, Viliam Hornacek, Gabriela and Roman Kalisky, Vladimir Kompanek, Milan Knazko, Michal Kovac, Pavel Kral, Bartolomej Kunc, Jozef Magala, Jozef Markus, Juraj Mihalik, Vladimir Meciar, Vladimir Ondrus, Jozef Prokes, Dusan Slobodnik, Peter Skultety, Marian Tkac, Igor Uhrik, and Peter Valo. The signatories elected from their midst a 17-member Committee of the ZZS initiative.

Article Sees Problems for an Independent Slovakia

AU1309154191 Prague CTK in English 1214 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 11 (CTK)—The economic and social consequences of a breakup of Czechoslovakia into two independent states - Czech and Slovak - would be more severe for Slovakia, according to an article in today's edition of the Czech daily "MLADA FRONTA DNES".

Referring to estimates by the Czechoslovak Academy of Science's Economics Institute, the author of the article writes that a breakup "would mean the loss of about 300,000 jobs in each of the two republics.... Of course, given the population of Slovakia (5.3 million), 300,000 unemployed there has double the effect of 300,000 in the Czech Republic (10.3 million)".

At the end of July unemployment stood at 362,700 in the country as a whole - 197,100 in the Slovak Republic alone.

According to the article, a breakup would also have an unequal effect on trade. A projected 50 percent loss in markets for each side would be a greater blow for Slovakia, since "at the end of the 1980's, 11 percent of the Czech Republic's production went to Slovakia, while in the same period 27 percent of Slovakia's production went to the Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia)".

The article notes that Czechoslovakia is attractive to Western investors mainly because of its geographic position, which allows convenient access to Eastern markets. But if the country were to split in two, "the Czech lands would meet with another barrier on the way east, and Slovakia's substantially worse economic performance would discourage (prospective trading partners). Naturally then Poland or Hungary would be more advantageous partners for the West".

Speculating on why, despite the risks, Slovakia is seeking to loosen its ties to the Czech Republic, the article says:

"Either these are political ends pursued with an attitude of 'at all costs', or the facts (regarding the economic and social consequences of a breakup) are being intentionally hidden from the public, or they are not even known to many politicians".

Carnogursky, Klaus Comment on ODS-KDH Meeting

AU1209192791 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 10 Sep 91 pp 1-2

["as"-signed report: "The Voters Will Decide"]

[Text] Representatives of the Civic Democratic Party [ODS] and the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] met in Bratislava yesterday. KDH Chairman Jan Carnogursky and KDH General Secretary Jan Petrik welcomed to KDH soil an ODS delegation led by ODS Chairman Vaclav Klaus.

"A common state can only have one flag on the map of Europe," ODS Chairman Vaclav Klaus said at the briefing that followed the talks with the KDH representatives. When assessing the talks with the ODS, Jan Carnogursky, stated that while their opinions on the pragmatic economic issues are close, they differ considerably from the problems of the constitutional arrangement. Comparing the current talks with the meeting with the Civic Movement [OH], he said that the OH representatives showed more understanding for historical and philosophical opinions of the KDH. Vaclav Klaus expressed his appreciation of the frankness and openness of these talks and his regret that they did not take place sooner. He emphasized that the will to preserve the common state clearly dominates among the Czechs.

Both representatives agreed that the legal continuity of the Czechoslovak state must be maintained, and the powers of the federation must be applied directly to the citizen. Jan Carnogursky added that his party does not consider internal restructuring to be disruptive to this continuity. This includes adoption of the Slovak Republic constitution, and action that, according to him, is consistent with constitutional law.

The ODS chairman admitted that he, like Carnogursky, can be mistaken in evaluating the Czech and Slovak people, and therefore, it should be the voters in the next legislative elections who should decide.

[Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak on 10 September, in a similar report on pages 1 and 2, adds that Klaus was in Bratislava to meet with representatives of the government coalition participants—the Democratic Party, the Christian Democratic Movement, and the Hungarian Independent Initiative—but not with the Public Against Violence movement representatives. "The fact that J. Kucerak, chairman of the Public Against Violence Slovak Council learned of Klaus's working visit with the ODS representatives from VEREJNOST reporters confirms that there is something amiss between the ODS and the Public Against Violence movement." The reporter expresses his surprise that the movement closest to the ODS, which has always supported Klaus and his politics and even sacrificed its popularity for this purpose, is suddenly out of favor. He finds only one possible answer: "The Public Against Violence movement is not sufficiently rightist to conform to the ideas of Klaus's ODS."]

New Agency Will Coordinate Slovak Foreign Aid

AU1609121991 Prague CTK in English 1616 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Bratislava Sep 13 (CTK)— The Slovak International Relations Ministry has set up a Slovak National Agency for Foreign Investment and Development to coordinate foreign assistance in Slovakia, Jan Amos Havelka, Slovak deputy minister for international relations, said today.

Speaking at a press conference, Havelka noted that Slovakia needs an estimated 1,600 million USD annually. Up to now, only 70 million USD have been invested in Slovakia. This is 19 percent of the foreign capital invested in Czechoslovakia, or about 4 percent of the estimated annual need.

In the non-investment field, Slovakia takes a share of less than 30 percent of the assistance destined for all Czechoslovakia, Havelka said.

Czechoslovakia is made up by the Czech and Slovak Republics. The Czech Republic has a population of about 10.3 million, the Slovak Republic, situated in the east of Czechoslovakia, has about 5.3 million inhabitants.

[Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak on 14 September on page 2 carries a 300-word "ea"-signed report on the above news conference. The report renders the vernacular of the new agency's name as "Slovenska narodna agentura pre zahranicne investicie a rozvoj."]

Trade Ministry Releases Arms Export Figures

AU1609181791 Prague CTK in English 1649 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 12 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Ministry representatives today said Czechoslovakia expects to export arms worth about 8,000 million crowns (1 USD = 30 crowns) this year.

The ministry officials, who attended a session of the Czechoslovak parliament Defense and Security Committees, told deputies that in 1987 Czechoslovakia sold 20,000 million crowns worth of weapons.

At present there are 15 firms in Czechoslovakia licensed to trade in weapons but a special license is required for any concrete deal.

A new bill on arms exports is being drafted.

Trade Minister Cites Import, Export Figures

AU1609182391 Prague CTK in English 1646 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 12 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay today said Czechoslovakia seeks trade contacts with all countries but has to take into account existing conditions.

Speaking at a press conference at the 33rd International Trade Fair in Brno, South Moravia, which started yesterday, Baksay said discussions on opening up the European Community (EC) market for Czechoslovak exports continue and that the EC limits in 1990 on imports of Czechoslovak textiles have considerably increased for this year (sweaters from 223,000 to 1,600,000 and shirts from 989,000 to 6 million).

Baksay said the Soviet Union is Czechoslovakia's biggest foreign supplier, with 34.9 per cent share in the country's imports this year. Oil, natural gas and ores make up the bulk of Soviet exports to Czechoslovakia. The Soviet Union is followed by Germany (17.9 percent), Austria (6.4), Poland (5.1) and Italy (3.2).

Baksay said that Czechoslovakia's biggest export market is Germany (24.6 per cent), after which come the Soviet Union (19.3), Poland (6.9), Yugoslavia (6.7) and Austria (5.3). Czechoslovakia expects a significant increase in trade turnover with Israel and the Arab states, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He said that successful discussions were held in Brno on the repayment of Bulgaria's, Poland's and Romania's outstanding debts to Czechoslovakia (310 million, 284 million and 199 million convertible rubles). The debts should be repaid by the end of the year, he said.

Slovak Industry Declines Further in Jan-Jun

AU1209193791 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Sep p 7

[Igor Zvach report: "The Slovak Statistical Office: A Decline in All Branches of Industry"]

[Text] According to the Information on the State of Economy in the Slovak Republic and on Tendencies in the Development of the Population's Living Standard for the first half of 1991, prepared by the Slovak Statistical Office, the total industrial output in the first half of this year was slightly more than 196 billion korunas (in current prices), which means another 14.9 percent drop when compared with that of the second half of 1990. The enterprises with more than 100 employees registered an even greater decline—16.6 percent. It is even more alarming because state enterprises with more than 100 employees produce 94 percent of the total industrial output. Although practically all branches registered declines, the enterprises in nonferrous metallurgy and in the clothing industry contributed most to the overall decline.

Of course, the drop in production resulted in reduced shipments. Total shipments were 51.3 billion korunas lower in the first half of 1991 than in the second half of 1990, which is a drop of more than 18 percent.

On the other hand, it is interesting and welcome news that production in the developing private sector, small business, and cooperatives grew by 23.4 percent. Similarly, in enterprises with more than 100 employees (these are mostly state enterprises), employment declined by on average of 0.7 percent per month. During the same period, employment grew by an average of 3.5 to 4.6 percent per month in newly-formed companies.

It is remarkable that while the enterprises with more than 100 employees experienced a great decline of production and shipments, the average monthly salaries, when compared with the second half of 1990, rose in the first half of 1991 by 12.8 percent to 3,643 korunas per month.

Spokesman Reports Five SFRY Border Violations

LD1609201691 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Interview with Defense Ministry Spokesman Gyorgy Keleti and Border Guard Spokesman Attila Krisan by unidentified announcer in Budapest; from the "Extra" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] As you may have heard on the "Evening Magazine" program, we received further alarming reports from Yugoslavia during the day, some which directly affect us. We heard about shots coming over, and during the day, three Yugoslav combat aircraft violated Hungary's airspace, or at least there were three border violations. The studio guests are Defense Ministry Spokesman Colonel Gyorgy Keleti and Border Guard Spokesman Attila Krisan. According to your information, what happened precisely?

[Keleti] The news agencies reported in the morning that the Hungarian air defense, the Hungarian Armed Forces' fighter planes, shot down two Yugoslav aircraft. These news agency reports relied on Radio Zagreb, an information source difficult to approach. That is a fact. We denied this as quickly as possible, saying that the Hungarian air defense did not shoot down any Yugoslav aircraft; indeed, it did not get entangled in any kind of air fight.

At the same time, it must be said that the Hungarian air defense had very strenuous duties this morning, because after 0800—more precisely, a few minutes before 0900—signs were present that the Yugoslav Air Force was beginning very serious military operations directly above the Hungarian-Yugoslav border.

[Announcer] Was this detected on radar?

[Keleti] Yes, our radar system indicated that there was a high degree of movement in the air; unfortunately, air activity began at 0908. Yugoslav Air Force aircraft attacked several Croatian settlements with bombs and missiles near the immediate border.

Unfortunately, what we always fear took place: Aircraft can slip across into Hungarian airspace during such maneuvers near the immediate border. This happened several times today. I can say that five aircraft crossed into Hungarian airspace, fortunately not to an overly great depth—a maximum two to three kilometers—and stayed for only a few minutes.

[Announcer] Why these contradictions? In the news, we have constantly spoken about three aircraft or three border violations.

[Keleti] If the aircraft approach in a pair, we construe this as one border violation. From this...

[Announcer, interrupting] Two aircraft go at one time.

[Keleti] That is correct. They carry out one action. It was then necessary for the Hungarian air defense, as well, to raise its aircraft that had been prepared for this situation. Hungarian fighter planes, from 0900 until 1300, carried out very serious patrolling tasks in several relays since an aircraft cannot handle this for such a long time. The helicopters swept Hungarian airspace in several relays.

[Announcer] If it is not a military secret, please say how large an action this was.

[Keleti] They were primarily at the border stretch, in the Drava-Danube border triangle or nearby, some 15-20 kilometers from the border, above Hungarian territory. We wanted to avoid even the semblance—which might be misunderstood by the Yugoslav side—of having the intention of intervening in the events taking place near the immediate border. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. Krisan, has there been an event—perhaps a military event—today of which we have been unaware up to now?

[Krisan] There has been no such military event. The actions on the Yugoslav side have been taking place since midnight today, and they are taking place now, at this hour. Vigorous combat began on the Yugoslav side of the Dravaszabolcs border crossing at midnight. Hungarian border guards immediately closed the Dravaszabolcs border crossing. The border guards heard a gun battle of varying fierceness several times overnight from the far side. They saw and heard heavy combat. The illuminating projectiles crossed the Drava. They may have gone into the water or into the areas along the banks. We did not find these places during daylight investigations. However, our ears did not deceive us, since not so long ago, in the past one to two hours, the mortar shell place was found some 500 meters away, in a cornfield. It is very easy to see; it made a crater with a singed edge. Perhaps the fragments will emerge later. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I must ask the next question in the dear listeners' interest: Do we need to fear a Yugoslav attack?

[Keleti] I feel the armed actions in Yugoslavia, in which, as is generally known, the Army and other forces are participating, do not pose a military threat to Hungary. However, we undoubtedly have to be prepared. If these serious armed clashes continue along the border, it may happen that a small armed group may stray across to Hungary. It might happen that an airplane wants to launch a missile at a Croatian target, and the pilot errs for a few seconds or tenths of seconds, and his missile might go astray by meters or kilometers in that event. Thus, I imagine that the answer is no to the question of whether Yugoslavia might get entangled with Hungary or that Hungary might get involved in Yugoslav armed conflicts. However, we, unfortunately, must expect that the Border Guard and the Hungarian Army must be on special alert there, along the border. [passage omitted]

Situation Reported 'Calm' at Yugoslav Border

LD1709094791 Budapest MTI in English 0811 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 17 (MTI)—The Hungarian-Yugoslav border is calm, and traffic at the Dravaszabolcs border station has also normalized, the deputy spokesman of the Hungarian Border Guards told MTI on Tuesday morning. (The Dravaszabolcs station was closed down on Monday morning, due to fighting along the Yugoslav areas.)

Attila Krisan said the flow of refugees again picked up as a consequence of fighting on Monday, with some 100 people asking Hungarian border guards for temporary refuge. Some people arrived across the green border, also requesting assistance.

Krisan also said that on opening the Dravaszabolcs station, two Yugoslav citizens carrying pistols, and a third carrying major amounts of ammunition, were arrested on monday evening.

Eyewitness Account of Airspace Violation Reported

LD1609152191 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Since midday there has been calm again around Dravaszabolcs. Laszlo Gongo reports from the venue:

[Gongo] At 1045, two fighters flying at a relatively low altitude violated our country's airspace. According to eyewitnesses, they arrived from a direction southwest of the River Drava, and beyond the river, already in Hungarian territory, they turned and from the line of the border they fired several missiles into Yugoslavia. The bridge connecting the two countries is intact. Traffic, however, has stopped, because no one is being received in the neighborhood. [as heard]

Eventually, on the intact part of the [Yugoslav] border crossing point, a Croatian flag could be seen. [passage omitted]

Antall Wants Croatia, Slovenia Recognized

LD1609204991 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall telephoned the Italian deputy prime minister to urge trade and other retaliatory measures against Serbia, to propose that Europe unify and recognize the independence of Croatia and Slovenia, and to suggest that the Yugoslav crisis be taken to the United Nations. Claudio Martelli, in the absence of Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, held coordinating discussions with Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. The Yugoslav prime minister said that the Federal cabinet is totally helpless and that all of its attempts to end the armed fighting failed. The Austrian chancellor said that the Vienna parliament will debate Yugoslavia tomorrow and will possibly recognize the independence of Croatia and Slovenia.

Tiszai Refinery on Alert To Receive Soviet Oil

LD1609201491 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Adria petroleum pipeline deliveries have come to a halt. Croatian operators telephoned Hungarian officials to say they are unable to fulfill their contractual obligations. Five section switching [szakaszolo] stations have been occupied by armed Serbs; thus, they are in charge of the 180-kilometer stretch of the pipeline between Omisalj and Sisak. The halt to deliveries will not cause problems for the Hungarian fuel supply in the short term; however, the Tiszai refinery has been put on alert to receive extra Soviet oil deliveries, which may be necessary.

Jeszenszky Sees 'Positive Moves' in Romanian Ties

AU1309140891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0939 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/9/1991—Positive moves have been made in the Hungarian-Romanian relations, said the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Geza Jeszenszky in an interview with a "ROMPRES" reporter. The Hungarian foreign minister quoted the endorsement by the Hungarian Government of the "Open Skies" agreement and of bilateral agreements on education and culture. Further cooperation has also been initiated to overcome the difficulties and tension existing between Romania and Hungary and establish correct relations of good neighbourhood and friendship. The implementation of this cooperation would benefit from the careful elaboration of a framework-agreement, added Geza Jeszenszky. The Hungarian party has been attentively studying the framework-agreement drafted by the Romanian party. Meanwhile, the Hungarian side has been preparing its own framework-agreement, that is soon going to be handed over to the Romanian side. One must not forget that the Hungarian-Romanian framework-agreement must be in concord with other bilateral agreements signed or in view by Hungary, added the Hungarian foreign minister, who also said that experts would soon be able to start negotiations for corroborating the two variant of the framework-agreement.

Referring to the situation in the Soviet Union, the Hungarian foreign minister mentioned that his country had never recognised the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and added: "We back the decisions taken by the parliaments of a number of republics to proclaim independence, as we observe the decisions of legislative bodies."

Foreign Ministry Official on Talks in Prague

LD1409014591 Budapest MTI in English 1936 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Prague, September 13 (MTI)—Obstacles have been cleared out of the seperate general agreements to be concluded between the Soviet Union and Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland because of negotiations conducted by Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Polish and Soviet Foreign affairs officials today.

The Soviets no longer insist on the clause banning the signatories from joining any alliance directed against the other side, Hungarian Foreign Ministry senior offical Pal Dunai told MTI, he added that because of this, the most debated issue of the talks had been resolved.

The officials explored to what extent the Soviet events of the past few weeks speeded up the progress of the talks on concluding the bilateral agreements.

According to Dunai, who heads the Hungarian delegation, there is hope the agreements may be finalized in September, thus enabling all three East-Central European countries to initial the documents in October.

In another development, Hungarian Foreign Affairs Spokesman Janos Herman told MTI Friday evening that bilateral Hungarian-Soviet talks had also been conducted in Prague. As a result of these talks, the two sides were able to reconcile their positions on the many debated issues between the two countries. Hopefully this means the problems still open can easily be resolved.

A Hungarian delegation will soon travel to Moscow to continue the talks, Herman said.

MTI Reports Results of County By-Election

LD1609123691 Budapest MTI in English 1033 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 16 (MTI)—As reported, Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa (Independent supported by the Hungarian Democratic Forum) on Sunday was elected as MP at the repeated by-elections in the 11th individual constituency of the north Hungarian county of Borsod-Abauj-Zemplen, following in the stead of ex-prime minister Miklos Nemeth.

The first round was unsuccessful because less than 50 per cent of the eligible voters turned out for the elections.

The second round was valid as the turnout exceeded the required 25 per cent.

The final election results:

Of the 49,355 eligible voters from 36 villages and the city of Szerencs, 14,580 went to the polls, casting 14,399 valid ballots. The turnout was 29.15 per cent.

Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa won the seat in parliament with 8,106 votes, which is 56.3 per cent of valid votes, followed by district Doctor Szabolcs Soja - Christian Democratic People's Party - with 2,549 votes (17.7 per cent), business lawyer Zsolt Egeli - Independent supported by the Alliance of Free Democrats and the Federation of Young Democrats - with 2,131 votes (14.8 per cent), camp site manager Laszlo Pelsoczi - Independent Smallholders' Party - with 710 votes (10.9 per cent), co-operative farm president Barna Semsey - Hungarian Socialist Party - with 655 votes (4.5 per cent), economic consultant Istvan Csaky - Independent - with 106 votes (0.7 per cent), Ferenc Ipacs - Independent - with 92 votes (0.6 per cent), and lawyer Istvan Utasi - Homeland and Enterprise Party - with 47 votes (0.3 per cent).

Lithuania's Landsbergis Views Polish Minority Issue

LD1609135591 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Interview with Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis by Krystynak Koziol in Warsaw on 15 September—recorded]

[Text] [Koziol] Mr. President, Polish Radio First Program. What is to become of the Polish-Lithuanian dialogue?

[Landsbergis] Just listen please. This situation is bad. This one-sidedness and wrong information is also seeking to shape opinion as a whole in Poland. I would like someone to shed light in an honest and objective manner on the reasons and results of the activity of a certain well-known stratum—well, let's call it the bolshevik nomenklatura—that served, and served diligently, the Kremlin's blackmail against Lithuania and that violated the law and the Lithuanian Constitution so many times and that was warned so often. Eventually, it was dissolved as a rayon authority in two areas and in one parish. Following this, two plenipotentiaries were appointed by the Lithuanian Government to assume office, just as before there had been plenipotentiaries appointed to one rayon on the Niemen river and one parish. So now we have five such administrative units ruled by plenipotentiaries.

There is no question that this is something improper. [Words indistinct] those two rayons that Poland is concerned about, the elections will be held within half a year, I hope. This is a compromise move, because the law provides that there should be a period of a year for such appeasement. So we went along the road of such compromises: lower-level self-government offices are not dissolved, just those that were in the hands of the CPSU.

Landsbergis Denounces Walesa Letter

LD1709150791 Warsaw PAP in English 1326 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 17—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis on Tuesday denounced President Lech Walesa's letter over the Polish minority in Lithuania as including "unpresidential" remarks.

The Lithuanian president told the Polish daily "RZECZPOSPOLITA" that Walesa was repeating charges "typical of the Polish press" and added that the Polish papers were biased in their reporting on Lithuania.

In a letter delivered to Landsbergis last Sunday Walesa expressed his concern over the rights of the Polish minority in Lithuania and said they should match international legal norms.

President Landsbergis defended a move towards the Polish minority in Lithuania to dissolve the Polish regional councils there, saying the councils were unanimous in voting bills hitting out against the Republic of Lithuania. The dissolution was not an act against national but political minorities, he added, as the councils were controlled by Communists who supported Moscow in the strivings for Lithuanian independence.

He also admitted that, in a way, the decision could have been interpreted as the use of the principle of collective responsibility vis-a-vis the council as a whole but not towards the Polish minority.

The Lithuanian president expressed his astonishment that Warsaw "addressed (Lithuania) in a way Moscow used to do it in the past."

"We still expect friendliness from Poland," President Landsbergis said recalling that Lithuanians had thought that Poland would have been the first country to recognize Lithuania's independence.

Landsbergis Visit Only 'Stopover'

LD1609134291 Warsaw PAP in English 0929 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 16—Grzegorz Dziemidowicz, a spokesman for the Polish Foreign Ministry described the surprise visit to Warsaw last night by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis as "just a stopover in Poland."

"No meeting between the Lithuanian and Polish presidents have been agreed before, and meetings at this level require earlier arrangements," the spokesman stated.

Defense Minister Views Soviet Relations

AU1309153391 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 11 Sep 91 pp 1-2

[Interview with Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk by Maria Wagrowska; place and date not given: "State of Alert Called Off"]

[Text] [Wagrowska] As soon as the coup d'etat in the Soviet Union had ended in a fiasco, President Walesa said that the possibility of placing our Army on a combat readiness footing had been considered to counteract any threat to Poland's security that might have arisen. Had such a possibility been considered earlier?

[Kolodziejczyk] We were already prepared for the situation that did in fact arise. Relevant work had begun at about the end of 1990 and the beginning of 1991, and by the end of the first quarter, we had already worked five different options depending on how events would unfold in the USSR with, of course, modifications. The course of events in the Soviet Union suggested that things might proceed in an uncontrolled manner and that there are forces there that might be tempted to revive the setups that existed a few years ago and restore a Soviet sphere of influence...

[Wagrowska] ...using military means to facilitate the attainment of these goals?

[Kolodziejczyk] ...or at least using them as an argument to support such a policy. However, we also considered the worst possible scenario.

[Wagrowska] So, it was not just a question of theoretical ideas put down on "paper."

[Kolodziejczyk] No, these were not just general staff concepts. Our units were ready to act...

[Wagrowska] Both air and land forces?

[Kolodziejczyk] Yes, as well the Navy, because the Army is a cohesive organism. When dangers arise, the Armed Forces have to be seen as possessing a particular configuration, and air forces are capable of effecting the most rapid response.

[Wagrowska] Were there indications that Soviet forces were being concentrated along our eastern border and along the Czechoslovak border?

[Kolodziejczyk] No. No such indications were received before the coup, but a couple of days into the coup, we did observe movements, although on a small scale, and they amounted to bolstering the western Soviet border. The concentration of forces, which looked defensive, required no counteraction from our side.

[Wagrowska] Were there any incidents on the border?

[Kolodziejczyk] We did not record any.

[Wagrowska] I assume that placing our Army on a higher state of alert also meant relocating units on our country's territory?

[Kolodziejczyk] Yes, but—from the military viewpoint—events did not unfold according to the worst possible scenario, but according to the simplest scenario. So, there was no need to effect any movements, but some Army units were ready to move.

[Wagrowska] Were Soviet forces on Polish territory placed on alert?

[Kolodziejczyk] Yes. Emergency procedures were tested in these units, and K rations were issued. Troops were not allowed to leave their bases and go into town. We think that that was a "just in case" measure, but one never knows.

[Wagrowska] Was that the case in all the Soviet units on Polish territory, regardless of where they were stationed?

[Kolodziejczyk] Yes, that could generally be said of all the Northern Group Forces in Poland.

[Wagrowska] Did the Polish Armed Forces make any preparations for movements by Soviet forces across Polish territory?

[Kolodziejczyk] That danger did not exist, if only because larger formations cannot be moved out of bases from one hour to the next. However, I surely do not have to add that we observed things very carefully and used the entire system at our disposal. It functioned efficiently.

[Wagrowska] During the coup, the commander of the Northern Group, General Dubinin, is supposed to have given an order instructing troops to move out of several different locations as part of a withdrawal, as we were told, from Poland and that such a move did begin....

[Kolodziejczyk] No troop movements of this kind took place, but an incident did occur that was not connected with the Moscow coup. Namely, since December of last year, there have been problems with the transfer of barrack facilities to the civilian authorities in Legnica Voivodship. Just before the coup, General Dubinin employed a form of "blackmail" and declared that his forces would have to return to the barrack facilities to stop the buildings from falling into disrepair.

[Wagrowska] Could the instructions to place Soviet units on alert have been given by Yazov, the former defense minister and a member of the State of Emergency Committee?

[Kolodziejczyk] I do not think so. I can only conclude that they were issued by General Dubinin and that every commander in his position would have behaved the same way. Unclear situations make it necessary to tighten discipline.

[Wagrowska] So, the state of alert for our Army was called off then?

[Kolodziejczyk] Yes, that was already done on the evening of 22 August.

[Wagrowska] Did our Ministry of National Defense establish contact with the appropriate ministries in the Soviet Union, that is, with central and republic authorities?

[Kolodziejczyk] As soon as the coup had ended in a fiasco, contact was established with the Russian Federation's ministry and the ministry at the central level. However, contact is still to be established with the former republics, because we have to wait for defense ministries to be established in these new states. Initial contacts indicate that the Soviet Union will adopt a more flexible and constructive approach to questions pertaining to our bilateral relations, such as the withdrawal of forces from Poland and Germany and their transit through our country above all. I hope that the stance of the negotiating groups pursuing talks on these subjects will change because, until now, they appear to have been playing for time.

[Wagrowska] However, I think that a new situation has arisen in that the new states that have been formed in the European part of the Soviet Union are demanding that foreign forces be removed from their territory. As a

member of the military, do you think that this will aid or hinder the resolution of issues connected with the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Poland and Germany?

[Kolodziejczyk] In a physical sense, not much will change. First, little will change, because the Soviet side really does face the problem of not having sufficient barrack and apartment accommodation for its troops, and the withdrawal of formations from the Baltic republics and the Ukraine will complicate matters further. On the other hand, one has to realize that there are many Ukrainians serving in the Soviet forces on Ukrainian territory. So, the withdrawal of Soviet forces might not necessarily encompass military formations that are completely intact, but might begin with the dissolution of these formations and be followed by the creation of national guards, militias, republican defense forces and so on. What will also be significant is whether the formula adopted for military forces will be that of a federation or confederation. So, it is still too early for a clear-cut answer.

[Wagrowska] Analyzing the processes that have been set in motion by the changes that have occurred in the USSR, do you think that Poland's security will improve?

[Kolodziejczyk] It is difficult to treat declarations and expressions of intentions to the effect that the Armed Forces will be reduced by 800,000 and that missile capability will reduced by 80 percent as facts. However, if USSR military policy does assume such a direction, then it would improve security and not just our security. It can also be assumed that a policy of that kind would also result in reductions on the Western side.

[Wagrowska] However, will we not be exposed to dangers of a new kind from the east?

[Kolodziejczyk] The democratization processes that are underway are being accompanied by growing nationalism, and that is where I see the greatest potential threats lying.

[Wagrowska] One sometimes gets the impression that Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary are beginning to conclude at least a gentleman's agreement that goes beyond the scope of the accords that have been signed and displays the characteristics of a military agreement for the event that their security should be threatened.

[Kolodziejczyk] That is a false impression because there are no political agreements on creating any kind of bloc or on providing assistance under particular circumstances....

[Wagrowska] And do you exclude that as a possible option?

[Kolodziejczyk] For the time being yes, but every new element that enters a situation can result in views being revised. At the moment, we are concentrating on the most difficult problems that our armies face, and those mainly concern the modernization of military hardware and equipment and mutual complementary assistance in this area. We want to coordinate the purchase, supply, and transfer of technology, and to coordinate training. For example, we are considering establishing a training center for drivers of a new generation of tanks in Poland and establishing an artillery training center in Czechoslovakia. We want to exchange information on the situation regarding air space.

[Wagrowska] To what extent does the situation that has arisen in relations between Poland and the east bring us closer to the West's integrated defense system, to NATO?

[Kolodziejczyk] At the present time, it is still difficult to make diagnoses and forecasts, because we still do not know how the situation on the other side of our eastern border will develop. There is a common desire, on the part of Poland and—we have a right to believe—on the part of NATO, to move closer together.

Walesa on Social, Economic Transformation

AU1709085991 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 13 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with President Lech Walesa by Josef Vesely; in Warsaw, date not given: "Freedom Is Our Bedrock and the Economy Is Our Mainstay"]

[Text] Prior to his departure for Czechoslovakia on 16 September, Polish President Lech Walesa met with a group of Czechoslovak journalists. He also replied to questions from our special correspondent:

[Vesely] Mr. President, in the midst of the unprecedented social transformations taking place in both Poland and Czechoslovakia, which aspects do you think are more important—moral, economic, or political aspects?

[Walesa] It is necessary to realize that everything depends on the immediate situation. When we won our way to freedom, we were glad just to have freedom. It seemed that we would accomplish everything easily. As a matter of fact, our friends in the West assured us that we would somehow manage. However, now that the time has come for us to implement our far-reaching aims, we realize how complicated the situation is. Political freedom is still our bedrock because only it opens the way toward implementing these aims. At the same time, however, our society and individual citizens are considerably more pragmatic. They already have freedom, and they certainly enjoy it very much. Of course they do. Nevertheless, they would like the economy to give this freedom a sufficiently firm and lasting basis. Now we also have to subordinate all our activity to the demands for a better life, for a better economy, and for better international cooperation. In the past when we allowed ourselves to be carried away by our struggle, we sometimes forgot our neighbors, including our largest one. Now economic reality forces us to think differently, to value our traditional partners, and to respect the fact that the USSR could be a large and important market for

us. Freedom and the new moral and political principles that we guide ourselves by should be—in the given situation—oriented toward a better and more satisfactory life for everyone.

[Vesely] When leading Western politicians speak directly and forget about being polite, it seems that Poland, the CSFR, and Hungary are regarded—from an economic point of view and as European Community partners and rivals—as second or third class countries. That is, in the opinion of these politicians, it would be more purposeful if the troika attempted some kind of second league integration and tried to find out what they can do and only then—figuratively speaking—ran out onto the first league European integration sports field. What is your view?

[Walesa] This is what is being said on a theoretical and political level. However, as far as the troika is concerned, what is the situation like in practice? Technological development and ideas for future starting points are—despite all their partial differences—comparable in each of the above-mentioned countries. Each of us very much desires to link up with Western Europe. A really serious question arises here: Should each of us try to catch up with the more developed part of Europe on his own or should we strive to make the most rational use possible of the comparable potential of comparable economies for better mutual cooperation among the CSFR, Poland, and Hungary and, then, on this basis, attempt a more effective approach toward an integrated Western Europe? On more than one occasion, experience has taught us the extent to which we are mutually dependent on each other. I think we can simultaneously continue in the reforms and transformations oriented toward where the West now is and, at the same time, utilize our existing possibilities. This would be easier, would make better use of our resources, and—obviously—would be favorably received within the European Community. Under these circumstances, we would perhaps not have to close down factories and, of course, we would not have to stop modernizing them. Perhaps we could continue supplying each other and, at the same time, change the structure of production and—as we go along, of course—qualitatively modernize its technological base. I think that every other way would, in fact, be much more expensive. This could perhaps be perceived in the way you mentioned in your question: Training hard in the second league and then breaking through to meet the very best competition.

[Vesely] If we compare the number of official or working contacts between Western politicians, such as Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, with the number of contacts between our countries' leading statesmen, we arrive at a considerable disproportion.

[Walesa] I am a practical person. The answer is very easy for me: It is because they have more stable economies and can afford to devote more time to foreign issues. In comparison, we have so many problems and difficulties and so many urgent consultations with our partners in our own countries that we have to devote far more time to domestic policy. We are still going through a kind of revolutionary period, that is, we are not in a standard or normal situation. As soon as we get everything in order at home, we will again behave in the standard manner. I am convinced that there will then be considerably more interstate and international meetings on this level.

We will be able to refine, revise, and improve our relations. It is necessary to evaluate the above-mentioned situation on a realistic level. I feel that, in our case, the situation must be objectively different from the situation in the West, different in another respect: Leading industrial managers and successful farmers from our countries should meet as often as Mitterrand and Kohl meet. If possible, their contacts should be continuous, for instance, via telephone. Perhaps this sounds strange in connection with my forthcoming visit, but as far as political meetings involving statesmen at the highest level are concerned—meetings where global matters are more likely to be discussed—it seems to me that they are perhaps even less demanding in comparison to the contacts among professional people, including ministers. We have decided to set out in this direction and now place emphasis on specific contacts among people who directly—whether by their physical work or by their ideas—implement the changes that are taking place. Sometime in the future, when individual workplaces in both countries are linked by telecommunications systems and their computers communicate with each other, there will again be time for statesmen to meet as often as possible and discuss other, less operational, issues. This will happen one day.

[Vesely] Mr. President, I believe you would not want to negate the importance of the meeting to be held in Krakow at the beginning of October involving the most senior representatives from the CSFR, Poland, and Hungary. After what you have just said, is there any sense in holding such a meeting?

[Walesa] Of course, there is. A great deal of sense. We really have a lot in common; we even think in a similar manner, and—moreover—it is better to do certain things in a troika. It would be a shame not to do so.

[Vesely] We would like to devote the last question to the domestic political situation in Poland. You have previously indicated that in some respects the current preelection situation in your country is similar to the situation in Germany during the so-called Weimar Republic in the 1920's. That is, you have a large number of political parties and grave social problems. In this connection, what do you think of the appeals being made by some people for a firm government and for radical, simple solutions?

[Walesa] Yes, you are correct. You know, that is the very reason why I so vehemently pressed for the post of president. I perceive this mission from a practical point of view. I realize that I cannot be undemocratic. I realize that it is necessary for me to approach the very edge of

anarchy, but not to fall into the abyss of anarchy. I have to demonstrate my power a little and also have to have it at my disposal if necessary. However, this is all within the framework of social renewal and the quite complicated situation that we simply have to survive somehow. Nothing must be forced from above. The center has to operate—accompanied by the people's dissatisfaction—with the single aim of achieving something positive, an agreement. Therefore, I accepted the office of president because I knew that it was impossible to change the Sejm quickly. There were, and still are, too many contradictory forces. Many people were surprised that I did this. It seemed illogical to them. However, logic often does not mean anything during a revolution.

Understandably, it is impossible to easily achieve the aims we set ourselves. Therefore, I am trying to seek—as yet—unknown roads and paths. If everything is resolved all at once, people sometimes get nervous because the level of thinking is different among different sectors of society. Some people quibble about everything, others are aggressive, and the most simple people ask: How come they have not yet taken away my horse, or how come the government is not saying anything about my car? It is necessary to overcome this. It will not be easy, but it has taken centuries for Western democracies to establish themselves. We have to complete this task faster. Understandably, under the given circumstances, demagogues are also coming into the game and further complicate the situation. As soon as people see through their demagogy, common sense will triumph, and the famous middle way will be asserted. Despite this, I think that we ourselves would not be convinced of the correctness of our path or of the predominance of democracy over dictatorship if people's dissatisfaction was not aired properly. I think that the often bitterly formulated public criticism has its place. It is necessary to draw the appropriate conclusions from it, conclusions that discount the possibility of an dangerous reversal in our development.

Agriculture Agency Sees Better Times Ahead for Farmers

AU1309123691 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 11 Sep 91 p 1

[Krystyna Naszkowska report: "Better Times For Farmers, Says the Agricultural Market Agency"]

[Text] "We foresee a radical improvement in the situation of farmers over the next few months," said Wlodzimierz Rembisz, deputy chairman of the Agricultural Market Agency, at a news conference on Tuesday, at which a forecast of prices of basic agricultural products was presented. The Agency drew up this forecast on the basis of a balance sheet of supply and demand.

Rembisz said the price of rye should increase from 25 to 30 percent toward the end of 1990. This is due to the pig population, which consumes mainly corn. [sentence as published] The Agency is certain that another 500,000 tonnes of rye will be exported to the USSR and Middle East this year.

Wheat will become considerably more expensive. The demand for high-glutenous wheat already exceeds the supply, and its price should increase by 40 percent this year and at the beginning of the next. It will even be necessary to import 200,000 tonnes of it, but this will not effect the domestic price. Ordinary wheat should increase in price by about 35 percent. The prices of wheat will probably continue to increase after next year's harvest.

The Agency foresees a stabilization of the pork livestock market. It will not permit the procurement price of pigs to fall below the present price of 8,000 zlotys [Z] per kilogram.

The situation with beef livestock is similar. Farmers need not expect an increase in prices, but the Agency has enough funds to maintain the current price of Z6,000 per kilogram.

The prices of butter and milk will increase considerably, said Rembisz. In winter and up to the end of January, farmers will receive from Z1,200 to Z1,400 per liter of milk, and from Z20,000 and Z23,000 per kilogram of butter. Dairy cooperatives can hardly exceed these prices because, in that case, the import of butter would once again be profitable, despite the high customs duty.

The data presented by the Agency official was meant to indicate to farmers the most profitable sectors of agricultural production. In February, the Agency will present approximate emergency prices, i.e. the prices it will pay for produce if, contrary to expectations, market prices should fall. In June, however, the Agency will present the prices it will pay for produce after the 1992 harvest.

Agriculture Minister Slawomir Gburczyk, who was present at the news conference, presented the economic effects of introducing the guaranteed minimum prices of produce called for by the trade unions. The state would have to pay out subsidies to the tune of Z14 million to Z18 million every year. There are no guarantees that middlemen (traders and the processing industry) would not seize the profits. Introducing minimum prices would cause the establishment of "production quotas," i.e. quantitative restrictions in output, as is already the case in countries where such prices are in force. "We cannot afford such an operation," said Gburczyk. "We are not a country of chronic food surpluses, so we cannot restrict its production."

ADFR Discusses Strategy for Upcoming Elections

AU1609180191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1325 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 16/9/1991—The Steering Board of the Antitotalitarian Democratic Forum of Romania—ADFR—met in session on 14 and 15 September in Bucharest. Organizational matters were discussed as well as the Forum's strategy for the upcoming local elections.

A rotating presidency ensured by leaders of the member parties and groups was decided by the meeting. Current president of the Forum is Constantin-Ticu Dumitrescu, chairman of the Former Political Detainees' Association, with Dr. Mihnea Moroianu from Solidaritatea Universitara as vice president.

A statement of the ADFR's Steering Board shows that, should the united opposition contest local elections, it will do so on a joint ticket or it will field jointly agreed candidates. The current electoral bill is unsatisfactory to the ADFR which may not take part in the elections in case the government fails to put the conditions in place for fair elections. ADFR asks that people who held leading central or local positions in the Romanian Communist Party be banned by law from nominations for candidates, as well as the people on the former repressive force who either abused their positions or are guilty of crime and violence.

It was the idea of the leadership of the Christian Democratic National Peasant Party, launched on July 1, 1990, that the opposition should unite into a forum to offer a credible alternative of democratic government of the country. The Antitotalitarian Democratic Forum was set up in Cluj, a little more than a month later, rallying ten parties and associations (the National Peasant Party, the National Liberal Party, the Democratic Party, the World Union of Free Romanians, the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, the Romanian Independent Forum, the Association for the Defence of Human Rights, etc., as well as independents like Professor Doinea Cornea and aesthetician Adrian Marino). The ten-point "Cluj Proclamation" of the Forum, released on August 6, advocates the democratization of the whole political and social life, in strict observance of human rights, the recognition and ensurance of actual exercise of the individual and collective rights of national minorities, the right of any social category to set up absolutely free and independent professional organizations, the abolition of the former Securitate and the prevention of the use of similar bodies for party or group interests, the development of a legal framework for the functioning of political pluralism, in which the opposition should be a loyal partner of dialogue and at the same time an alternative for the country's government.

Antitotalitarian democratic fora were set up in September 1990 in Iasi, Timisoara, Tirgu Mures, Brasov, Arad, Bistrita-Nasaud, Constanta, Bacau, Hunedoara, Teleorman, Alba and Bucharest, rallying branches also of other parties or associations, like the Party of Democratic Unity, the Association of Former Political Detainees, the Romanian Ecological Party, the Christian-Democratic Union, the Democratic Union of the Romanies. On October 24, 1990, over 1,000 representatives of the 44 Democratic Antitotalitarian Fora from all over the country met in the first national convention to discuss the joint guidelines of action.

The second ADFR all-country convention was held in Cluj, on December 6-7, 1990. It debated the ADFR Draft Statute and released the Proclamation-Program of the Forum. Represented in that second convention was also the Civic Alliance, set up on October 13, 1990 as an organization of the civil society.

An important moment in the ADFR existence was then the Bucharest meeting, on March 8, 9, 10, 1991, of its Steering Board that endorsed the ADFR Statute. The leaders of the political parties represented in the parliament agreed on the participation on joint ticket of the members and on supporting the independent candidates proposed by the Civic Alliance.

After the third all-country convention, in which the Civic Alliance was granted membership (April 1991), the ADFR comprises 19 political parties and associations.

Iliescu Discusses Balkans Policy, Soviet Coup

TA1709080891 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Interview with President Ion Iliescu by Muzaffer Baca in Bucharest on the "A Look at the World" program; date not given—recorded; Iliescu answers in Romanian with passage-by-passage translation into Turkish]

[Text] [Baca] Turkey and Romania are pursuing a generally similar policy in the Balkans. Would you assess the latest situation—for example, the turmoil in Yugoslavia and the problems between Bulgaria and Romania and between Bulgaria and Turkey? What sort of cooperation can be established between Turkey and Romania in this respect?

[Iliescu] The Balkans were a sensitive area in the past as well. As you know, this was the region that triggered the start of World War I. At the moment, several Balkan countries are going through a very complex process. Naturally, this process causes instability. The most explosive situation in this respect, as you know, is in Yugoslavia. Naturally, the solution of these problems depends on how the countries concerned plan to solve their problems. It is each country's own problem; each country must resolve its conflicts. It is the domestic problem of each country to not only eradicate the explosive situation, but to solve the economic and social problems as well. The nationalist problem is also each country's own problem, as in the situation in Yugoslavia. It is a multinational state, and confrontations erupted among the nations that make up this republic.

We believe that the relations among the Balkan states are important. The Balkan states must make efforts to create a favorable atmosphere to speedily overcome the difficulties, the tension. In this respect, we find our relations with Turkey to be very [word indistinct]. There are no elements of conflict between Turkey and Romania. Both sides are interested in developing bilateral relations in all fields. We hope that the relations between our two countries can constitute a positive, stabilizing element.

[Baca] Can we call it an element of strategic balance?

[Iliescu] Yes, we can. Of course, we are in the position of being a bridge between the two continents, and this has strategic importance. It has importance for stability in Europe and in the world.

[Baca] Now I would like to talk about the Soviet Union. A process of secession has started there. I understand that Romania asked Turkey to recognize Moldova. My question is: What did you feel during the coup; how do you assess the current situation; and, if Turkey recognizes Moldova, what sort of policy will Romania pursue regarding the Turkish republics in central Asia?

[Iliescu] The coup showed that such crude and rigid political intervention is completely bankrupt and completely insufficient in our times of dynamic development. We do not recognize only Moldova's independence; we were one of the first to recognize the independence of the Baltic states, of the Georgian Republic. We are ready to recognize all these states when they declare their independence. This is an inevitable, objective process.

Roman Interviewed on Bulgarian, Balkan Issues

AU1609172991 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 11 Sep 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Petre Roman by "Balkan Information Pool;" place and date not given: "According to Roman, Romanian Chlorine Does Not Poison Bulgarian Air Any Longer"]

[Text] [Reporter] The Bulgarian Danube city of Ruse is still being polluted by the Giurgiu chemical plants. Has this issue been "polluting" Bulgarian-Romanian relations for a rather long period? What is the status of efforts to eliminate the problem?

[Roman] The alarm system in Giurgiu has not indicated any gas emissions in the last three to four months. On the other hand, control action implemented in Ruse showed that there are polluting agents in Ruse itself. I understand the concern of the population there, especially against the background of the fresh memory of past gas emissions. We must take into consideration two things: The harmful emissions must be eliminated, and at the same time, the fear of the population, which at present is too great and unfounded, must be decreased.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, can we say now that poisonous substances do not cross the border any longer from Romania to Ruse?

[Roman] The data supplied by the experts of the Ministry of Ecology is categorical—there are no poisonous emissions. On 11 September, a meeting of the Bulgarian-Romanian commission that deals with this issue will take place, and an answer to the problem will be given.

[Reporter] What are the economic and ecological prospects of the initiative on cooperation among the Danube cities?

[Roman] We initiated the so-called Danube Project, whose outlines began to emerge. It presupposes, most of all, cooperation with the Balkan countries. Simultaneously, the Danube is the most important European waterway, and there is hardly a European who has not heard about it. This Danubian idea could facilitate the elimination of the Balkan's conflict-ridden image, which was created throughout the years.

[Reporter] We speak about the Danube as a European axis. Recently, the emerging Athens-Sofia axis was mentioned as an open system to stabilize the situation in the Balkans. How do you see Romania's role in this process?

[Roman] From an historical point of view, Romania has always had a balancing role in the Balkans, and we think that this positive role will continue in the future. At least we are interested in this. In this context, it is important to point out that Romania has good relations with all Balkan countries at present. The stability that Europe desires so much could be constructed by the Balkan states upon the idea of good-neighborly relations in the Balkans. I do not think that this idea has been sufficiently implemented. The world still is concerned with our region. Unfortunately, the events in Yugoslavia show that not all our regional problems have been resolved.

[Reporter] Is nationalism, which already claimed many casualties in Yugoslavia, being restored in the Balkans? If so, what in your opinion are the causes, and how can the Romanian leaders oppose the phenomenon?

[Roman] Nationalism is emerging again after the elimination of the communist structures. It was suppressed by the communist superstructure, and its reemergence was unavoidable to a certain degree. The task of our governments is to activate within the framework of the democratic process those instruments that could replace the conflict situations with democratic structures. National elements should be expressed through cultural enrichment—and this must become a reality rather than a declarative recognition. From this point of view, we have yet to encounter difficult moments.

(DUMA note) In his interview, which we carry in an abbreviated form, Roman adds that certain clauses of the bilateral treaty that was recently signed in Moscow could be amended against the background of the unsuccessful coup. He apparently means the military clause, opposed by certain East European countries that were about to and

still are to sign a treaty with the USSR. Roman denied that he had heard the idea that the new Balkan democracies' road must pass through the Bosphorus. Roman thanked Lionel Stoleriou, the former French state secretary on planning, for his agreement to serve as economic adviser to the Romanian prime minister. "His willingness to share his experience is gratifying, because our integration in international economy requires a very good knowledge of that economy," Petre Roman said in his interview for the Balkan Information Pool.

Trade Relations With Bulgaria Reviewed

AU1609180491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1350 GMT 16 SEp 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 16/9/1991—"An important point in the talks conducted in the Bulgarian capital by Prime Ministers Petre Roman and Dimitur Popov and their delegations was the deblocking of bilateral commercial relations in conditions in which one can note that this year they dropped to less than one fifth as to the previous year, Mr. Napoleon Pop, head of the Foreign Trade Department in the Ministry of Trade and Tourism told "ROMPRES." A clearing protocol on mutual deliveries over 1991-1993 will be signed late this month when the Plovdiv fair is held. The legal framework of bilateral relations will be complemented with two specific agreements—on the avoidance of double taxation and on the promotion and guarantee of investment, the Romanian dignitary also said. As for the first accord, he said, the drafts have already been handed to our partners and in case of the second the Romanian side is to get a draft from its Bulgarian partners. They are standard agreements, which means that they will be rapidly negotiated by the sides so that they may be signed early in October when the treaty between Romania and Bulgaria is signed.

Referring to the other projects the two prime ministers underlined—with the creation of a joint commercial and development bank among them—Mr. Pop said that project could be achieved as the laws in Romania and Bulgaria allow it and that the national banks had been requested to look into that project as soon as possible.

Another project refers to the creation of a Romanian-Bulgarian Chamber of Trade and Industry, to which end the presidents of the two chambers will meet on September 17.

As for the liquidation of the transferable-ruble balance in favour of Romania, Mr. Pop said the industry ministers from Bulgaria and Romania would meet to set liquidation modalities as the liquidation would be effected on a commodity basis. At the same time, further products to be exchanged between the two countries will be agreed upon. This is highly important, he said, as more than 70 percent of the exchanges between Romania and Bulgaria are concentrated in the industrial area.

A joint commission will be created in tourism, Mr. Pop said showing that Romania was invited to open a travel agency in Sofia and that the Bulgarian side had such an agency in Bucharest.

Foreign Trade Official on Jan-Aug 1991 Figures

AU1609113991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1101 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 16/9/1991—In the first seven months of 1991 Romanian exports were worth 706.4 million rubles and 1,784.9 million US dollars, and the imports—512.8 million rubles and 2,981.1 million US dollars. The foreign trade balance in the same period had an excess of 193.6 million rubles and a deficit of 1,196.2 million US dollars, shows Napoleon Pop, secretary of state, head of the Foreign Trade Department of Romania, in an interview with Radio Bucharest. As for the various compartments of activity, the economic agents active in machine-building plotted an excess of 337 million rubles and 206 million US dollars. Excesses were reported also in the timber industry—177.9 million US dollars. Likewise, rather big deficits were reported by the economic agents in metallurgy—200 million US dollars, chemistry and petrochemistry—435 million US dollars, oil industry—238 million US dollars, agriculture—312 million US dollars. In the first seven months of this year, the first ten import staples held a share of 50 percent of the total imports. They were only raw materials: Crude, gas, electricity, iron ore, mineral ore, barley, soy beans, cotton. Lesser amounts were imported of insecticides, weed killers. A great many such products are stipulated in the memorandum concluded with the IMF so they are partly subsidised by the state. As for exports, the first ten products covered in the first seven months of this year 43 percent of the total exports, including acid hydrocarbons, oil products—8.7 percent, furniture—7.6 percent, mineral and bituminous oils—5.3 percent, drilling equipment—3.5 percent, cars—3.4 percent, ready-mades—3.2 percent, steel products—3.2 percent, merchant ships—3 percent, nitrogenous fertilizers—2.8 percent, railway cars—2.3 percent. Exports comprise a big number of products that are big consumers of energy and raw materials, Napoleon Pop mentioned.

Federal

Serbia-Kosovo Talks Make No Progress

LD1709075291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1723 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Pristina, 16 Sep (TANJUG)—A meeting was held in Pristina's Grand Hotel this afternoon between representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [Demokratski Savez Kosova], a political organization rallying Albanians in Kosovo.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia the talks were attended by Budimir Kosutic, vice president of the government; Predrag Todorovic, the republic's justice minister; and Dragan Nikolic, secretary of the Serbian Government's Secretariat for Special Programs.

The Democratic Alliance of Kosovo was represented by members of its Presidency, Ali Aliju, Anton Kolja, and Bujar Bukosi.

After the talks, which took place behind closed door and lasted for over an hour, a statement was issued noting only that "the sides agreed on the issues to be discussed in further talks."

It has been learned unofficially that instead of an offer to discuss the ways of implementing autonomy and local self- administration in Kosovo and Metohija, the representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo advocated their own familiar standpoints and put forward their familiar demands. As a result, the meeting failed to make a single step forward to bringing the sides closer to each other.

Belgrade Press Views Government Reshuffle

LD1609125191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1040 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 16 (TANJUG)—The Belgrade daily BORBA today writes that Yugoslav Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic has been 'given the mandate by Europe', but that 'the question is if he has been given one by all the Yugoslav republics'.

In a commentary on an announced reshuffle of the Markovic cabinet, the daily, close to the Federal Government, explains that 'Markovic is seeking political support from the warring tribal alliances'.

'If the Yugoslav republican leaders should give their go-ahead to Markovic to form a new cabinet, it must mean that they have, after all, opted for peace', the daily writes and goes on to say that the other option would mean an 'all-out war, with the obvious certainty of Europe joining in the Yugoslav war games'.

The daily quotes 'two claims voiced in circles close to the Federal Government and the military leadership... - that (General) Kadijevic is the only possible counter-weight to the more militant section of the Yugoslav Army leadership' and that 'to remove the Yugoslav defence minister, General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic, from his present office would bring more harm than good to both the prime minister and the over-all political situation in Yugoslavia'.

'The same sources claim that Gen. Kadijevic is not in the best of health', the daily writes.

The Belgrade daily POLITIKA EKSPRES today writes that 'Yugoslavia with Markovic at the helm of a reshuffled or a completely new cabinet stands virtually no chance' and that 'Markovic as prime minister suits down to the ground those who are no longer interested in Yugoslavia at all'.

The daily writes that it is 'hard to expect Markovic to contribute to ending the war and attaining a peaceful and just solution at The Hague conference on Yugoslavia'.

'Should he, however, remain at the helm of a Federal Government in any shape or form, Markovic will only contribute to prolonging the agony', the daily writes and opines that 'Markovic is padding the ground for a soft fall or for as painless and effective a transition as possible to the top echelons of power in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia'.

Markovic on Efforts To End Crisis Peacefully

LD1609175291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1347 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Sep (TANJUG)—It is time that all of the country's factions appear before the public and say what they are doing to end the conflict, establish peace, and begin talks for peacefully resolving the crisis and the country's future. Hence, all those responsible should take their share of responsibility and see to it that the outcome of the crisis is not determined by war but by negotiation. After all, war does not solve problems. This was stressed by Federal Executive Council [FEC] President Ante Markovic in today's talks with domestic and foreign journalists, where he also made his own appeal to all citizens, nations and nationalities, and foreign countries to take a more intensive role in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

No one has the right to kill, devastate towns, or destroy property, Markovic stressed, advocating the urgent cessation of all clashes and destructive activities in the country.

Markovic said he is in favor, if necessary, of inviting 1,000 or more EC observers to supervise the situation in crisis flashpoints to halt the destruction caused by war. The observers should be stationed wherever necessary—at all hotspots both in Croatian towns and on the Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina border so that they might have an impact, by providing objective information from these places, on bringing an end to the conflict and a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The war has not ended but has escalated and become more dramatic in the 16 days since the cease-fire agreement and the memorandum on the Croatian observer mission extension were signed. The war is ever more intensive and the casualties increasingly great; towns are being demolished and barracks blocked.

The FEC has over the past 16 days requested—six times already and today for the seventh—that all the agreement and memorandum signatories meet and actively involve themselves in halting the military clashes, thereby sharing the responsibility. There were prospects today that tomorrow, at the FEC's initiative, a joint session of the Federal government and SFRY Presidency, as the two signatories (to the agreement and the memorandum), would be held at the country level. However, despite all the FEC's efforts, there is no readiness to hold this session. The SFRY Presidency, as the supreme commander, does not accept the initiative and does not want to convene a joint session, Markovic stressed.

The initiative to convene a meeting of all cease-fire agreement signatories is not accepted either. "I must distance myself from this, but the FEC and myself are investing great efforts in contributing to the implementation of the agreement and memorandum obligations," the Federal premier stressed.

In the framework of efforts to solve the crisis peacefully, Markovic cited his and Loncar's 14 September Zagreb talks with the leadership of the republic of Croatia and 15 September talks between Croatian Prime Minister Franjo Greguric and Admiral Stane Brovet, deputy Federal secretary for national defense. Markovic specified that these talks were held on Croatia's initiative and that one of the questions was the exchange of all prisoners, including Major General Milan Aksentijevic. Key points in the talks were that the army receive food, water, and electricity within 24 hours of lifting the blockade on the barracks and that there be an end to the use of military force. The aim was to agree on how to implement these goals. There was also discussion about the organization of road, rail, and air traffic and about making it possible for the trains, which are transporting military equipment from Slovenia, to arrive at their destinations.

Asked whether the airspace above Slovenia and Croatia is closed, Markovic replied that it is not closed above Slovenia but that it is closed above Croatia because flight control management has been rendered impossible.

Repeating several times that he supports peacefully resolving all the problems, the premier stressed that the nations must decide whether they will live together or will go their separate ways, something which ought also to be done without bloodshed, destruction and—as he put it—"the Lebanonization of this area."

We favor the rights of citizens regardless of their national, religious, or any other affiliation; local and regional self-management and autonomy; and the sovereignty of the republics as states. However, we also favor these states expressing whether they wish to live together and what common functions they will have. This should be done without force—in other words, through agreement.

Regarding the announced arrival of Lord Carrington, chairman of the conference on Yugoslavia, Markovic assessed that "one visit cannot resolve all problems" but that this is "an opportunity which we should not miss." The visit to Yugoslavia and the talks will make it possible for Carrington to familiarize himself on the spot with our situation and, on this basis, involve Europe and the world even more in actions to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis, Markovic said.

The FEC president informed journalists that Carrington would meet with Milosevic, Tudjman, and Kadijevic and that these talks would be held, he said, "where it is possible to hold them." Asked whether he too would have a meeting with Carrington, Markovic replied that "Carrington himself decided with whom he will have talks, and we must respect his decision."

To the question of whether the Yugoslav-Hungarian border is closed, the premier replied that "he does not have this information."

Ante Markovic devoted part of the conference to the announced reconstruction of the FEC, stressing that there are differing reactions but that increasingly the notion is prevailing that, he said, it is necessary and welcome. As the FEC is also to include representatives who will have a mandate from their republics, there are suggestions that these be the republican prime ministers. Premier Markovic assessed this as "a good idea." In this context, Markovic pointed out that many are denying the legitimacy of the present FEC but that virtually every day they are demanding that the Federal government represent their interests and assist in resolving problems, from ending the conflict and establishing peace to securing operation of the oil pipeline.

Mesic Letter Protests Presidency Meeting

LD1709154791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1438 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, 17 Sep (TANJUG)—In connection with today's meeting between five members of the SFRY Presidency in Belgrade, SFRY Presidency President Stipe Mesic sent a letter to the Secretary General of the Presidency, Anton Stari, as reported by Croatian Radio, in which he demands that "a consultative meeting between all members of the Presidency of Yugoslavia be organized" in his office in Zagreb, because "it is impossible to hold the meeting in Belgrade because of the well-known actions of the top level of the Army."

"The time," Stipe Mesic's letter says, "should be set according to the availability of the Presidency's members. Each meeting held without my participation will be considered as part of a scenario opting for a military coup. I have to warn you that General Blagoje Adzic did

not contact me in spite of my insistence, and therefore I hold that nothing has changed in the position of the top level of the Army," the letter sent from Stipe Mesic to the secretary general of the SFRY Presidency says in conclusion.

Presidency Meets on Mesic Letter to UN

LD1709152691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1419 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Sep (TANJUG)—In the Palace of the Federation in Belgrade, a meeting of members of the SFRY Presidency began at 1500.

According to the SFRY Information Office, the meeting is being attended by Branko Kostic, Borisav Jovic, Bogic Bogicevic, Jugoslav Kostic, and Sejdo Bajramovic.

The Presidency is discussing a letter from the president of the SFRY Presidency (Mesic) to the UN Security Council and a session of the Yugoslav Presidency to be held at the request of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors, and a statement is expected afterwards.

Vice President Kostic on 18 Sep Presidency Session

LD1709051991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0218 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, September 17 (TANJUG)—"The Yugoslav Presidency work is not endangered, regardless of being obstructed by President Mesic," Branko Kostic, vice-president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, has told the Belgrade daily BORBA.

The statement was motivated by "the Yugoslav Presidency president's refusing to convene a session of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, by way of making this conditional on withdrawing the Yugoslav Army units to their barracks in Croatia," BORBA writes today.

"Mesic keeps doing so with the aim of possibly having the Yugoslav Presidency deny him confidence as Yugoslavia's president, a thing which could produce in a part of Europe and the world the impression of Croatia being menaced in Yugoslavia," Kostic stresses.

Several members of the Yugoslav Presidency have come to the idea of holding a session of the Yugoslav Presidency on Wednesday, September 18, Kostic says.

"Under the rules of procedure, the Presidency can hold such a session without its president," Kostic explains.

"The rules of procedure also provide that, if the Presidency members are agreed that such a session be held, then its decisions could be considered as valid decisions by the Yugoslav Presidency," Kostic adds.

"Croatia keeps attacking the Yugoslav People's Army in a wish to cause and provoke its more fierce reactions," Kostic estimates.

In this way, Croatia would like to have the world think that "the young Croatian democracy" is in danger and, so, to step up Croatia's becoming recognized in the world," he says.

Knin Corps Lifts Airport Blockade

LD1609192191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1903 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Sep (TANJUG)— We have received the following statement from the inforamtion service of the Knin Corps:

"Acting in line with the order of its superior command, units of the Knin Corps have lifted the blockade of the Zemunik airport after crushing the forces blockading it. The communication line Zadar - Maslenicki most is now under our control, while the communication line Drnis - Sinj has been cut off. The units of the Knin Corps will continue their actions in line with the task entrusted to them."

Defense Ministry Threatens Retaliation

AU1609193191 Belgrade RTV Sat TV in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Statement by the Information Service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense; place and date not given]

[Text] The public at home and abroad know that Croatia is not implementing any of the agreements on the peaceful solution to the crisis that have been reached so far. Using the cease-fire agreement, the armed formations of Croatia started an all-out attack on the units and facilities of the Yugoslav People's Army.

The issuing of the unlawful and unconstitutional so-called order by Mesic on the Army withdrawal to the barracks and on placing members of the Yugoslav People's Army on the territory of Croatia outside the law resulted in the total blockade of barracks and facilities being replaced by armed attacks on units, institutions, and members of the Yugoslav People's Army, above all, on the small, isolated, and not much defended facilities and watch towers.

The army has been patiently tolerating all this in the interest of peace and has displayed consistency in the implementation of the cease-fire agreements. This patience has been totally abused in an impudent and arrogant way. The EC observers' mission has witnessed this itself and so have all the well-intentioned and unbiased experts.

The limits to our patience and our tolerance have been exceeded. This is the price the Army has accepted so that

disputes can be solved in a peaceful way. Further restraining of our units from active defense is not possible because this would lead to unforeseeable consequences.

Therefore, the units of the First Army District have embarked on operations to lift the blockades of the most threatened barracks in the zones of their responsibility. Even these operations were not a sufficient lesson to the relevant authorities in Croatia to order a stop to the insane armed attacks on individuals, units, and barracks of the Yugoslav People's Army. They have in fact extended and intensified them.

It is obvious that the Yugoslav People's Army had to accept this imposed conflict. It started in the Vukovar Garrison. All those who attack and oppose the Yugoslav People's Army will be destroyed. Actions are also under way in other regions of Slavonia and some garrisons in Dalmatia. They will be continued until the liberation of all blocked barracks and facilities and everything the armed formations of the Croatian Democratic Community occupied on their own initiative and are now plundering.

This was stated in a communique of the Information Service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense.

Army Warning on Eliminating Opponents

LD1609195791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1843 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Sept (TANJUG)—The Information Service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense tonight issued the following statement:

"The domestic and world public are aware that Croatia is not carrying out any of the agreements reached hitherto on a peaceful solution of the crisis. Exploiting the cease-fire agreement, the armed formations of Croatia have begun an all-out attack on the units and premises of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA].

Following Mesic's illegal and unconstitutional so-called order on the withdrawal of the YPA to the barracks and placing the YPA members on the territory of Croatia outside the law, the armed formations of Croatia have proceeded from total blockade of Army barracks and premises to armed attacks on YPA units, institutions and members, above all on small, isolated, and poorly defended projects and observation posts.

In the interest of peace, the Army patiently endured all this and showed its consistency in the implementation of the cease-fire agreement. This patience has been totally abused in a perfidious and ruthless manner. This has also been verified by the observer commission of the European Community and every well-meaning and unbiased expert on events in Yugoslavia.

The limits of our tolerance and endurance have been exceeded. This is the price accepted by the Army for solving the disputes by peaceful means. Further restraint by our units from active defense is impossible without incalculable consequences. For this reason, the units of of the First Army District Command have started actions to deblock the most threatened barracks in its area. However, even these actions have not been a sufficient lesson for the competent Croatian organs. They have not ordered the cessation of the armed attacks against individuals, units, and barracks of the YPA. On the contrary, they have even expanded and intensified them.

It is clear that the YPA had to accept this imposed confrontation. It therefore started its action in the Vukovar garrison where all those who are attacking and opposing the YPA will be eliminated. Actions are also under way in other regions of Slavonia and in some garrisons in Dalmatia. They will continue until all blocked barracks and other projects are freed, including everything that the armed formations of the Croatian Democratic Community have arbitrarily taken over and plundered," the Information Service of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense says in its statement.

Telephone Links Cut Throughout SFRY

LD1609210491 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A little while ago we noticed that there is no telephone contact between Ljubljana and the rest of Yugoslavia. Therefore, we contacted the corresponding services of the Ljubljana PTT and were told that at the moment all telephone links throughout Yugoslavia are out of order. It is not possible to learn the reason for this interruption, which has already lasted three hours, as it is impossible to contact the corresponding services in Belgrade. Belgrade cannot be contacted over the international telephone line either. The PTT service also asked us to inform everyone phoning crisis areas that there are frequent interruptions which the Croatian PTT is correcting as quickly as possible. However, due to bombardment, the installations are frequently damaged and the interruptions continue.

Region Command Announces Blockade of 7 Ports

LD1709061991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0529 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, September 17 (TANJUG)—As from this morning, seven Yugoslav seaports are under sea blockade, the Naval Region Command has announced.

"As ordered by the Higher Command," it was decided that, "from 06:00 hrs local time on September 17, 1991, and further on" under naval blockade be put the seaports of Pula, Rijeka, Zadar, Sibenik, Split, Ploce and Dubrovnik. "In virtue of this decision, banned is for all ships and floating craft to either put in or out from the listed ports. Any disrespect for this decision shall be treated according to the rules of the Yugoslav Navy's combat use of forces," the announcement has it.

The Naval Region Command points out that it has decided to take such a step after several days of full blockade applied to barracks, military schools and academies, hospitals and other military facilities as well as of the mistreatment of the military.

Fully stopped has been keeping the military units supplied with electricity, water, food and medicaments, it adds. [sentence as received]

At the same time, many military facilities have come under attacks by Croatia's National Guard and policemen, it further says.

Radio Titograd: Navy Seals Croatian Ports

AU1709065591 Paris AFP in English
0631 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Igalo, Yugoslavia, Sept 17 (AFP)—Yugoslav naval authorities sealed Croatia's main ports on the Adriatic Sea early Tuesday in retaliation for Croatia's blockade of army garrisons in the breakaway republic, Radio Titograd reported.

The Montenegran radio, citing a communique from the regional naval command, said all traffic in and out of the ports of Rijeka, Zadar, Sibenik, Split, Ploce and Dubrovnik was halted as of 0400 GMT.

No ships will be permitted to dock in the ports, it added.

The communique said the blockade was in response to Croatian moves against army garrisons in several cities and to "poor treatment" by Croats of Federal Army troops in the republic.

International

UN's Carrington Arrives for Cease-Fire Talks

Milosevic, Tudjman, Carrington Meet

LD1709104891 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Igalo, Sept 17 (TANJUG)—The chairman of the peace conference on Yugoslavia, British diplomat Lord Carrington, and the presidents of the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Croatia, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, this morning arrived in Igalo for a meeting on the current situation in Yugoslavia

The federal defence secretary, General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic, and his associates have also arrived in this resort on the Montenegrin coast for a separate meeting with Lord Carrington.

Carrington Talks With Bosnian President

LD1709155591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1440 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Sarajevo, 17 Sep (TANJUG)—Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, today talked on the telephone to Lord Carrington, the chairman of the conference on Yugoslavia, who is in Igalo, the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency announced.

Lord Carrington told President Izetbegovic about his talks with the presidents of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Croatia, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, and General Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for National Defence.

President Izetbegovic expressed his fear at the possibility of the conflict escalating to the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina and stated that the presence of foreign observers in Bosnia-Hercegovina would reduce the existing tension.

'Integral Text' of Cease-Fire Agreement Reported

LD1709152791 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1441 GMT 17 Sep 91

["Integral text" of Yugoslav cease-fire agreement signed in Igalo on 17 September; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Igalo, 17 Sept (TANJUG)—TANJUG transmits the integral text of the document signed today in Igalo:

"This country is only day away from a state of irretrievable civil war. On that at least there is no argument.

I therefore call upon the three leaders most directly concerned with the current grievous loss of life to come together before the Yugoslav peoples and the peoples of the world, to state the following without equivocation or reserve:

"There are deep and dangerous divisions between us about the responsibility for what is now happening in Yugoslavia, and equally about the political future of this country. But on one thing we are united: that no viable solution for our peoples can result from violence and killing, and that we must talk together to determine if we can agree to future relations between our peoples".

We therefore pledge ourselves that everyone within our control and under our political and military influence should cease fighting immeditely. When forces are closely intertwined, there are inevitable problems of provocation, real or imagined, and retaliation. It is therefore imperative for the forces on the ground instantly to withdraw [words indistinct] ceasefire. This means that instantly and simultaneously all armed formations, including the paramilitary forces, irregular units, the Croat National Guard and the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] shall withdraw from immediate contact and from actual or previous areas where hostilities have taken or are taking place. All paramilitary forces and irregular units shall disarm and disband, the Croat National Guard reserve forces shall be demobilized, the JNA shall return to barracks. This process too shall be immediate and simultaneous. We welcome the readiness

of the EC monitors to oversee such a ceasefire, and we undertake to facilitate their work in reasonable conditions.

We recognise that this is the last chance for a de-escalation and a cessation of actual warfare, without which there can be no meaningful negotiation on the future of our peoples. We are fully conscious of the heavy responsibility we share at this crucial moment in our history".

Mesic Calls for UNSC Emergency Meeting

LD1609221191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Stjepan Mesic, president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, today sent a letter to the chairman of the UN Security Council, first informing him about the situation in Yugoslavia, and adding the following:

On behalf of the Presidency and in accordance with the procedure book of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, under which I have the duty to implement decisions of the Presidency, on 11 September 1991 I issued an order to the Army to return to barracks within 48 hours.

In his written reply on 12 September General Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for national defense, refused to obey my order. This means that, in fact, a military putsch has been carried out in Yugoslavia and that the Yugoslav People's Army has become a force beyond institutional control. Despite all existing documents and efforts by the EC observer mission, armed conflicts have escalated in Croatia, in particular, with special involvement of the Yugoslav People's Army. Armed conflicts have spread into the northern parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina. In its attacks on police and civilian targets in the Republic of Croatia, the Army has been using aircraft, missile launchers, heavy tanks and artillery to bomb towns and airports. The old towns of Vukovar, Osijek, Petrinja, and Vinkovci have been almost destroyed. Many Croatian villages have been completely burned down. Hospitals, churches, and historical monuments are being destroyed.

In armed conflicts in Croatia alone, 440 policemen have so far been killed and 2,207 policemen and civilians injured. The number of refugees who had to leave their plundered and destroyed homes has exceeded 140,000, Mesic says.

The Yugoslav Army, in cooperation with Serbian extremists, has so far failed to heed all appeals to end the conflict. On the contrary, in recent days clashes have escalated and the battle front is being extended, with an ever larger number of casualties and ever greater destruction aimed at main lines of communication, and designed to paralyze Croatia and topple its democratically elected authority.

All this has caused great concern in both Europe and the world and in neighboring countries, in particular, as reflected in official statements by their governments and statesmen. This unambiguously leads to the conclusion that the current fighting in Croatia and actions inside Bosnia-Hercegovina are threatening international peace and security.

In the light of all this and in my capacity of president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, I have the duty to draw the attention of the UN Security Council to the gravity and the threat to international peace of armed conflict in Croatia and other regions of Yugoslavia.

I appeal to you, Mr Chairman, to convene an emergency session of the Security Council in accordance with article three of the Security Council's interim procedure book to discuss the difficult situation I have described. At the same time I wish to suggest to the Security Council for its part to order, in line with article 40 of the UN charter, an immediate cease-fire, the disarming of irregular paramilitary formations, the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army to barracks, and the demobilization of the reserve forces of the National Guard corps.

In the light of the obvious aggressive plans of the Republic of Serbia and its publicly stated intentions to change borders by force and to annex parts of neighboring republics, I also propose that peace-keeping forces are sent to borders between republics and between Serbia and the Republic of Croatia, in particular, and that other appropriate measures are taken, as envisaged in article seven of the UN charter.

The purpose of all these measures lies in the need for an urgent and unconditional end to this unnecessary and brutal conflict and the possibility to resolve the Yugoslav crisis peacefully and democratically with consistent respect for human rights, the rights of national minorities and further development of democracy, Stjepan Mesic, prsident of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, says in its letter to the UN Security Council chairman.

Italy Calls For Withdrawal of Army From Croatia

LD1709105291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0930 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Rome, September 17 (TANJUG)—Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis says that Italy is no longer asking for the Yugoslav Army's return to barracks, but for its 'complete withdrawal' from the Republic of Croatia, 'just as in the case of Slovenia.'

Speaking at a press conference after a government session last night, De Michelis rejected the possibility of Italy's unilateral recognition of the two Yugoslav republics.

He specified that 'Italy will retain to the Yugoslav crisis the same attitude as that adopted by the European Community.'

Judging from the press conference, the Italian Government last night reaffirmed its strong opposition to

changing Yugoslavia's internal boundaries and external borders by force, its full support for all European initiatives, including the mission of Lord Carrington, and urged respect for the ceasefire agreement in Croatia and a substantial increase in the number of international observers in Yugoslavia.

Air Force Confirms Plane Downed, Denies Bombing

LD1609215191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2046 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 16 (TANJUG)—The command of the Yugoslav Air Force and anti-aircraft defence on Monday confirmed TANJUG's report that one Yugoslav fighter plane was downed near the Yugoslav-Hungarian border this morning.

The Army said in its statement that two military planes were on a reconnaissance flight at around 9.00 a.m. local time south of the Valpovo-Donji Miholjac route. It added that there was a concentration in the area of powerful Croatian guard and police forces which had the previous night surrounded and attacked a border post towards Hungary near Donji Miholjac.

During the reconnaisance flight, according to the escort pilot, the flight leader's plane was hit by fire from the ground and disappeared in the mist.

A speedy intervention by the Yugoslav airforce and anti-aircraft defence followed immediately, but the search for the pilot and the plane has not yielded any results until tonight.

The statement of the command of the Yugoslav Air Force and anti-aircraft defence draws the Yugoslav and international public's attention to the tendentious rumours being spread by the Croatian News Agency and Croatian radio and television on an alleged clash in the air between Yugoslav and Hungarian airforce planes.

The command put today's reports on the alleged bombing of Zagreb, Zadar and other bigger cities in Croatia in the same category of untruths.

The Hungarian Defence Ministry today denied reports by some world agencies which said that Hungary's anti-aircraft defence downed two Yugoslav planes this morning.

Albanians Arrested On Way to Join Croatian Units

LD1509172991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1440 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Niksic, 15 Sep (TANJUG) —At a news conference in Niksic today Miodrag Davidovic, head of the Niksic security center, announced that at about 1800 last night the Niksic security center forces discovered a group of 30 Albanians in a Swiss-registered bus. The Albanians were on their way to Croatia to join units of the National Guard Corps and the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry.

Many in the group did not have any idenitification documents. After they had been interrogated the Albanians were taken to Titograd from where they will be taken back to Kosovo escorted by officals from the Montenegro Internal Affairs Secretariat.

Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Hercegovina Leaders Meet

LD1709000991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1636 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 16 Sep (TANJUG)—The preservation of Yugoslavia as a common state of equal republics and peoples is in the vital interest of the majority of the citizens and peoples of Yugoslavia. Only by respecting the national equality and sovereign rights of the citizens and peoples of Yugoslavia, as an independent and sovereign state, is it possible to resolve the Yugoslav crisis legally and peacefully in a democratic manner—by political means.

This was emphasized in a statement from today's meeting of high representatives of Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Hercegovina which Ratomir Vico, the Serbian minister of information, read following the meeting at a news conference for domestic and foreign journalists. A conversation with the journalists was held by Aleksandar Bakocevic, Risto Vukcevic, and Momcilo Krajisnik, Assembly presidents from the three republics.

The journalists were told that today's meeting at the Serbian Presidency was attended by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic; Montenegro President Momir Bulatovic; Dr. Biljana Plavsic and Dr. Nikola Koljevic, members of the Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina; and Aleksandar Bakocevic, Risto Vukcevic, and Momcilo Krajisnik, presidents of the parliaments of Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia- Hercegovina. The meeting was also attended by Slobodan Gligorijevic, president of the SFRY Assembly; Dragomir Rakic, president of the Chamber of the Republics and Provinces; as well as guests and initiators of the agreement between the Serbs and Moslems in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Adil Zulfikarpasic, and Radovan Karadzic.

It was emphasized that the participants in this meeting appeal to all who wish to attain political aims by the use of force to stop clashes and to seek solutions through political and democratic means alone.

The journalists were told that today's meeting considered a working document entitled "The Bases for the Regulation of Relations in Yugoslavia" which, it was said, represented a good basis for the drafting of the constitution of Yugoslavia as a common state of equal peoples, citizens, and republics. This document will soon be submitted to the assemblies of the three republics whose representatives participated in the talks, and also

to Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia with the invitation to participate in the study of this initiative on an equal basis. [passage omitted]

Slovenia

Slovenes Invited To Attend Council of Europe Conference

AU1609115891 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1100 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The delegation of the Assembly of Republic of Slovenia will attend the third conference on parliamentary democracy which is organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and will open in Strasbourg today. This is the first time that a Slovene parliamentary delegation has been invited to attend the conference. The Slovene Assembly asked that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe grants Slovenia special guest status. The Slovene delegation consists of Matjaz Sinkovec, president of the Commission for International Relations, and Ivan Bizjak, president of the Chamber of communes.

Croatia

Croatian Defense Minister Hits EC Denial of Arms

PM1609151191 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Sep 91 p 44

[Interview with Defense Minister Luka Bebic, by Yves Heller: "Interview with the Croatian Defense Minister: 'We Intend To Arm Ourselves and Fight,' Luka Bebic Tells Us"]

[Text] Zagreb— Franjo Tudjman's Croatian government is preparing itself for a long and—in men and materiel—costly war against an adversary immeasurably better equipped. "We are aware that we will suffer heavy casualties and material losses"—Croatian Defense Minister Luka Bebic repeated that phrase several times during the interview that he gave us on 10 September. "We intend to arm ourselves and fight, but it will cost us dearly."

Mr. Bebic does not hide the fact that Zagreb is now committed to playing for time to be able to reorganize its forces, which have suffered serious setbacks in the past few weeks. The minister estimates that Croatia has lost 12 percent of its territory and 4 percent of its population as a result of attacks by Serbian irregulars and the Army. On the other hand, Mr Bebic believes, the Serbs "must act quickly if they want to win." Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic "is in a very great hurry; we are not."

The defense minister asserts that the Croat forces have learned some lessons from the initial fighting and have begun to reorganize in the field. A centralized command, vulnerable to enemy attacks, is out of the question now. The Croatian headquarters, on the contrary, has switched to organizing smaller, scattered units whose mission is to attack modest targets such as "small units of" (autonomous) Serbian "terrorists."

Mr Bebic dismisses out of hand the risk of being accused of violating the cease-fire by this new tactic: "In any case, the war is being fought on Croatian territory"—in other words, as far as he is concerned it is a purely defensive action.

Then the minister erupted: "Anyway, what cease-fire? It is a joke!" It is just a "way for Europe to ease its conscience." "We harbor no illusions. Europe will not be able to stop the Serbs, who have gone too far and cannot turn back," in the view of Mr Bebic, who states that "Europe's declarations have not served any purpose" and regrets that, unlike Kuwait, Croatia does not have oil, which would enable it to obtain all the international support it wants. "The United States talks of human rights and freedoms, but does nothing," he complains.

Above all, Bebic reproaches the Europeans with "forcing Croatia to fight from a position of inferiority by stopping it from buying weapons." Europe, he claims, "is forcing us to fight barehanded" by banning Croatia from obtaining arms for itself.

The arms question has become the number one problem, the principal preoccupation of the Croatian authorities who, according to Bebic, are incapable of arming all those who volunteer. The Tudjman government would openly embark on a broader mobilization if it had the means to arm recruits.

But, the minister affirms, the National Guard at present is not even able to absorb all the officers—over 500, according to Radio Zagreb—who have left the federal army to rejoin Croatia. For the same reason—shortage of weapons—the Croatian authorities have not so far been able to accept requests to join the National Guard from emigres in Germany, France, Canada, the United States, or Australia.

In an attempt to remedy this catastrophic situation—some national guardsmen go into battle armed with ordinary hunting rifles—the Croats have "begun to manufacture light arms." Furthermore, Bebic recognizes that, despite the embargo and the federal forces' recent interception of a plane loaded with arms, Zagreb has been managing to obtain weapons abroad "but in insufficient numbers." For the time being the Slovenes, who have also had to confront the federal troops, are supplying Croatia with a "small quantity of military equipment."

"For the moment" and, despite the imbalance of forces, we are holding our positions," Bebic stresses. "Without the Army's support," he said, "the Serbian irregulars would be swept aside."

Defense Minister Criticizes European Failure

LD1609112391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1025 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, September 16 (TANJUG)—Defence Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Luka Bebic has said that 'Europe has failed the test of Croatia' and that the Croatian leadership 'is no longer ready to agree to everything Europe proposes.'

'Every attempt by Europe to settle the situation turned into a farse whose results were always to the detriment of Croatia,' Bebic said in an interview which is published in today's Belgrade daily BORBA.

Bebic assessed that 'army attacks have multiplied' and that 'the war in Croatia has escalated, since Europe intervened.'

'Our new orientation is - offensive,' Bebic underscored, predicting that Croatia would win back the territories it has lost 'by the new year.'

Bebic said that Croatia had a total of 'about 400 dead' in the conflicts so far.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, however, said at the opening of the European Community (E.C.) peace conference for Yugoslavia in The Hague that about 2,200 people died in clashes in Croatia so far, icluding about 200 after a ceasefire was declared.

'Private purchase of weapons, and even smuggling and war profiteering, are a consequence of the fact that Croatia was not able to obtain arms through legal channels,' Bebic said, pointing out that this was the fault of Europe, which 'did not want Croatia to arm itself.'

The Croatian defence minister said that 'the United States (U.S.) helped Kuwait because of petroleum,' and that it had in the case of Croatia 'forgotten its supposedly high principles.'

'After U.S. Secretary of State James Baker came to Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Army was encouraged to attack the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia,' Bebic said. 'If Baker had not whispered something to the Yugoslav Army, there would have been no aggression on Slovenia,' Bebic assessed.

Armed formations of Slovenia clashed with Yugoslav Army units in June, when the units were performing the task of protecting Yugoslavia's state borders. This action by the army was qualified as 'aggression' in Slovenia and Croatia.

Defense Minister Bebic Orders Immediate Cease-Fire

LD1709151491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1445 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] [Word indistinct] order of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia to all commands of brigades and autonomous battalions of the National Guard Corps of the Republic of Croatia, and to all municipal crisis headquarters:

In connection with the order with the class Number 801-03/91/01 of 12 September 1991, and in keeping with the situation that has now arisen in the Republic of Croatia, we adopt the following order:

Immediately cease attacks on barracks and other stationery facilities of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army (YPA), except in the event of an attack from these facilities.

Secondly, other activities listed in the above-mentioned order remain in force.

Thirdly, submit reports on the implementation of this order to the headquarters of the National Guard Corps in Zagreb.

This order was signed by Luka Bebic, minister of defense of the Republic of Croatia, and Colonel Mimra Agotic, chief of staff of the National Guard Corps of Croatia headquarters.

Federal Aircraft Destroy Croatian TV Towers in Grde

LD1609100291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Fifteen minutes ago, at 1110, federal Air Force aircraft bombarded the district of Grde in Zadar municipality. According to our first reports, they have managed to destroy the towers of a Croatian radio television transmitter in Grde.

According to other, unofficial, reports Zadar is under no direct threat from an air raid, although its citizens have already taken cover in shelters. As we report this, the attack seems to be over. We still call on citizens who are listening to Croatian radio's Zagreb studio to stay where they are and not come out, because the sirens will be sounded once the alert is over.

Army Aircraft Downed in Donji Miholjac Area

LD1609121891 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] In the fighting in the Donji Miholjac area [near Hungarian border], another aircraft of the occupying army has been brought down; attempts are now being made to destroy it before it can take off.

During the fighting for three watchtower complexes in the Donji Miholjac area, in earlier incidents, two aircraft were shot down. The watchtower complexes in Donje Viljevo and Podravska Moslavina, adjacent to the Donji Miholjac border crossing, are under the control of the Croatian police and guards. In the fighting for these watchtowers, two members of the National Guard Corps were injured.

Capture, Shooting of Prisoners by Army Reported

AU1709082991 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 0500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In Petrinja, Croatian forces resisted a tank, infantry, and mortar attack against the center of the town by the Army and rebels from the local barracks until late at night. Croatian Television reports that the attackers captured some ten people and summarily shot them.

Fierce fighting was also going on in Nova Gradiska, where strong military units of the Banja Luka Corps are situated. Supposedly, the rebels launched over 500 grenades on [Novi] Varos alone. Unconfirmed reports claim that two foreign journalists also lost their lives on this southern front, which has so far been the scene of the most fierce fighting. [passage omitted]

Osijek Army Training Ground Taken By Croatians

LD1709091591 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0830 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] In Osijek, the notorious military training ground C, from where the town was being destroyed and Osijek citizens killed, has finally fallen into Croatian hands. We do not have any details at present.

Land, Sea Attack on Sibenik Reportedly Fails

LD1709092491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0830 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] This morning at 0823, Sibenik was attacked with coordinated fire from land and sea. Croatian forces responded in lightning fashion to these attacks, and the ships of the occupying navy are trying to get out of Mandalina and the port of Sibenik. The missile base on the island of (?Virije) has been included in the defense of Sibenik—the one which, as we reported, fell into Croatian hands earlier.

The Sibenik bridge has not fallen. Thirty tanks of the Knin Corps and hordes of Serbian criminal youth have been completely blocked by forces of the National Guard Corps and the Croatian police. Two landing craft of the occupying navy left the Sibenik channel this morning around 0900. A gunboat also headed for the open sea. The attack by hostile vessels obviously failed today.

According to reports from the crisis headquarters, negotiations have begun in Sibenik, while upon hearing the news that two aircraft had taken off from Knin, the citizens of Sibenik entered their shelters.

17 Sep Air Raids Warnings in Zagreb

Air Force Denies Air Raid

LD1709110591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0948 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, Osijek 17 Sep (TANJUG)—Air raid sirens went off in Zagreb today. At 1000, Croatian television announced that Army aircraft took off from Pula Airport and were flying toward Zagreb and Sisak to bomb it.

At 1120, the all-clear was sounded in Zagreb. There are no signs that the announced air raid will begin.

Circles close to the Air Force command categorically denied the announcement on the bombing of Zagreb and Sisak, stressing that the Air Force will not attack towns.

Croatian radio reported this morning that "an air-raid on Osijek has "begun".

Military circles close to TANJUG correspondent denied that there was an air raid on Slavonski Brod.

Croatian radio also announced that the Croatian forces have seized military training ground C south of Osijek, which has been the scene of frequent fighting over the past 15 days. Military sources categorically denied this announcement. Battles for the barracks in Osijek and the Yugoslav People's Army Club are still under way.

Alert Ends in Zagreb

LD1709101591 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] In Zagreb, Varazdin, and Hrvatsko Zagorje, the air raid alert has ended. Air raid alerts are still in force in Osijek and Krizevci, and one has begun in Ogulin.

New Alert in Zagreb

LD1709111391 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Sirens have just gone off in Zagreb, warning of the danger of an air attack. Citizens should go to their shelters and remain there until the air raid is over. There is still a threat of air attacks in these towns: Osijek, Ogulin, Split, Sinj, Krizevci and Sibenik.

Two Killed, Several Injured in Attack on Osijek

LD1709111591 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpt] According to information from the Osijek emergency services, two people have been killed and several injured in an attack on Osijek, which is still going on. [passage omitted]

Croat Television Claims Army Attacked Brac

AU1709112491 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1100 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Croatian Television reports that Yugoslav Army airplanes have dropped a weapon's load [borbeni tovor] onto the island of Brac.

Knin Army Corps Continues Action Against Blockade

LD1709113191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0955 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Knin, 17 September (Tanjug)—This morning the Knin Corps continued an operation that began yesterday to lift a blockade of its barracks, institutions and other Army facilities and smaller Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] formations in central and northern Dalmatia.

Colonel Ratko Mladic, the chief of staff of the Knin Corps, told journalists this morning:

"Last night and this morning forces of the Croatian National Guard Corps and the Ministry of Internal Affairs continued with the blockade of Army facilities and units in garrisons in Zadar, Drnis, Sinj, and Split. Attacks on all Army facilities and warehouses began in Sibenik. Members of the Yugoslav People's Army, retired officers, and members of their families are being arrested."

Also, according to Colonel Mladic, at 0500 this morning, the Croatian National Guard forces began concentrating in Drnis, intending to occupy the garrison and a warehouse. The Knin Corps, Mladic continued, is forced to continue the operation to lift a blockade of the blocked garrisons and warehouses to protect the lives of its members and save its material resources. Colonel Mladic said that the operation was going according to the plan.

This morning, units of the YPA of the Knin Corps were stationed on approaches to Zadar, Drnis, Sibenik, and Sinj in a very convenient operational and tactical position for the continuation of the operation.

Colonel Mladic again warned the civilian population in the zone of operations of the Knin Corps to go to shelters.

Report Describes Situation in Vukovar, Osijek

AU1709140291 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Mirko Stankovic report]

[Text] There is no stopping. There can only be short pauses, but the battle for the liberation of Vukovar is continuing unabated. This has been announced by Ilija Kojic, commander of the Territorial Defense of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem.

The battle for the Vukovar barracks has been won. The forces of the Yugoslav People's Army broke the blockade established on 25 August by members of the [Croatian] Ministry of Internal Affairs and the corps of the so-called National Guard and have approached the center of the town. No soldiers died in these battles, although four were wounded, including one officer. Members of the Territorial Defense of the Serbian villages of Negoslavci, Brsadin, Trpinja, Borovo Selo, and some others and the courageous Vukovar district of Petrova Gora have also been taking part in the actions.

Peace prevailed in Osijek the second half of the night until 0830, and then mortar fire, Howitzers, and machine guns started so that the residents of the town on the Drava moved to shelters, basements, and other refuges. The districts of Podravlje and Jug Dva were attacked, and the Osijek tannery and the overpass on the Tenja road were badly damaged. There was also shooting not far from the Milan Stanivukovic barracks and the so-called training ground C.

The people of Osijek have not gone to work today. At the regular news conference, it was announced that in the last three days alone, 157 wounded had been taken to the hospital while, as usual, or more precisely as ordered, the number of dead is either played down or not announced.

Since this morning, the focus of the battles is in neighboring Djakovo. Several locations were hit by mortars, and serious damage to some economic sites can be seen in the southern part of the town, which was hit by 200 grenades. No one has gone to work in this town either.

Damage to Radio, TV Transmitters Reported

LD1709140491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The occupying and hostile army seriously damaged the Croatian Radio and TV transmitter at Psunj in an air attack today and destroyed the Croatian Radio and TV transmitter at Deanovec. None of the employees were injured or killed. At both facilities, all are alive and well.

Telephone Links With Serbia, Vojvodina Cut

LD1709142291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] According to information from the Croatian PTT, telephone links with Serbia and Vojvodina were cut at 0830 this morning. The cause of the cut in communications is not yet known. Telephone links with Sibenik, Drnis, and Vukovar are still cut, while it is possible to get through to Osijek and Vinkovci from time to time.

Croatian Forces Reported 'Crushed' Near Okucani

AU1709145191 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Report by VECERNJE NOVOSTI correspondent Milan Dzajic]

[Excerpt] The Croatian (?mercenary) paramilitary formations have been crushed in the war arena in the Okucani region. Since noon of the day before yesterday, a full 34 hours, the Okucani Territorial Defense Forces and the units of the Banja Luka Corps and the Bjelovar Garrison of the Yugoslav People's Army have been trying to crush the Ustasha strongholds and fortifications in the broad area of the Okucani region: in Novi Varos, (?Pustara), tollgates along the Okucani-Bosanska Gradiska road, and in the villages of Pivare, Donji Bogicevci, (?Kostolac), Gornji Bogicevci, Dubovac, Gredjani, and Covac. As we are reporting, all these places, except for a part of Dubovac and of Gornji Bogicevci are now only former Ustasha strongholds. Although the main Ustasha forces have been dispersed, the Okucani region has still not been cleared and liberated. Bigger or smaller groups of Ustashas are hiding in cornfields—which are now providing a good shelter from the eyes of the Territorial Defense Forces members—in pigpens and henhouses, and in village yards, waiting for the right moment and opportunity to escape.

In yesterday's battles for Dubovac, which have also continued into today, one member of the Territorial Defense Forces, Sinisa Ecimovic from Okucani, was killed, and two fighters were slightly wounded. (?Slighter) damages were caused to the armored transporter of the Okucani Territorial Defense that the forces confiscated about 10 days ago in the battle for Masicka Sagovina.

Losses among Tudjman's mercenaries have been great. Croatian radio today admits that seven have been killed and more than 50 wounded and says that the exact number of killed and wounded is still unknown. This is true, because this number is by far larger. [passage omitted]

Military Jets Bombing Osijek

LD1709154391 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Report by Amareta Hohstauer]

[Text] Military jets are still bombarding Osijek while citizens are staying in shelters and other suitable places. Despite this, at least four people have died and over ten were injured in today's attack on the city. That the material damage is enormous goes without saying. An emergency ambulance center has been hit and a number of its ambulances have been destroyed. All of the center's telephone lines have been cut so there is no point in calling 94 [emergency ambulance number]. The students' dormitory in central Osijek—which is currently housing refugees—has also been hit. Many houses in the residential districts of [words indistinct] which have been hit are burning now. In addition to the air bombardment, Osijek is also being pounded by tanks, mortars, and multiple-rocket launchers.

The tanks that left the military installations in the city moved to the old part of Tenja, taking up positions near the agricultural school. As we have learned unofficially, some of them set off for the city, but thanks to the intervention by the Croatian armed forces their number has been considerably reduced.

Serbia

Jovanovic Rejects Proposal for European Peace Force

LD1709093491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0845 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] London, September 17 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Vladimir Jovanovic rejected the idea of sending a European armed peace force to separate the warring sides in Yugoslavia.

Speaking for British Channel Four from Belgrade last night, Jovanovic said that Serbia was against 'any foreign military presence in Yugoslavia.'

Jovanovic was interviewed in connection with the Netherlands' initiative launched yesterday for the Western European Union to convene in a special session on Thursday to discuss the possibility of sending a peace force to Yugoslavia.

Croatians Lift Blockade of Army Command

LD1609173391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1705 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, 16 Sep (TANJUG)—The Command of the Fifth Army District will not surrender without a fight, General Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the Fifth Army District, said at a news conference today. The news conference was held in the afternoon, after the forces of the National Guard corps and the [Croatian] Internal Affairs Ministry had lifted the blockade of a complex of buildings in the center of Zagreb housing the Fifth Army District command, the Army club, and an Army hotel.

No explanation was made in Zagreb for lifting the blockade which was in force all morning and part of the afternoon. However, since members of the EC observer mission attended the press conference, it is to be concluded that their presence had something to do with this decision of the Croatian authorities.

Army Lifts Blockade Around Zadar Airport

AU1609211691 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Danko Peric report from Knin]

[Text] As Colonel Ratko Mladic, head of the Staff of the Knin Corps of the Yugoslav People's Army, told journalists tonight, by 1930 the blockade around Zadar airport has been lifted through the operation of lifting blockades around military facilities in Dalmatia. The Zadar-Maslenica road has been cut off. Members of the

Knin Corps have reached the Murvica-Crno-Zemunik-(?Kakma)-(?Gaceve)-Zadar line. In addition, Colonel Ratko Mladic said that the Drnis-Split road near (?Kricke) has been cut off.

The blockade of the military warehouse and the command of Drnis units will soon be lifted. The forces of Croatian fighters, the Corps of the National Guard and the [Croatian] Ministry of Internal Affairs have been defeated and were fleeing this evening toward Split, Sibenik, and Zadar.

The head of the Staff of the Knin Corps of the Yugoslav People's Army said that there were no casualties among the Army units except for one officer who was slightly wounded. We have also learned that the Croatian fighters opened fire at a Air Force a helicopter that managed to return to the base. If all garrisons are not freed tonight and Croatian fighters surrender, operations will continue in the morning and later until the blockades have totally been lifted, Colonel Mladic stressed.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Bosnian President Asks Army for Restraint

AU1609194691 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Regarding the opening of fire from the Bosanski Brod area on Slavonski Brod today, Jure Pelivan, president of the Government of Bosnia-Hercegovina, has sent an urgent message to the commander of the Tuzla Corps, General Sava Jankovic, asking him to order the unit under his command to immediately stop shooting on Croatian territory. This was stated in a communique sent to us. At the same time the authorities of the Republic of Croatia were asked not to return fire on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bosnia-Hercegovina has ordered the activation of the reserve part of the police in Bosanski Brod to the maximum. National composition of the population will be fully respected. The government will also set up a commission that would gather all the necessary information concerning the security situation in Bosanski Brod.

Macedonia

Army Rejects Call To Return Troops in Crisis

LD1609202391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1834 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Skopje, Sept 16 (TANJUG)—The Army did not promise the Macedonian government that Macedonian soldiers would not be sent to the crisis regions, as the third district command of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), which also covers Macedonia, announced today.

The announcement came as a reply to an appeal by the Macedonian government, issued on Saturday, in which the military authorities are urged to return all Macedonian soldiers from the crisis regions in Croatia back to their home republic.

An agreement was made with the Macedonian state leadership that only soldiers who were withdrawn from Slovenia as well as those who had begun their military term in July and September would not be sent to the crisis regions, as the Army said in the announcement.

The announcement said the Army was fully abiding by the agreement.

It also said that the third army district had in September received an enlarged contingent of recruits who should have been sent to Croatia. Since they were not sent to Croatia, under the agreement with the Madeconian authorities, "the trained soldiers were transferred to other parts of the country," the announcement said.

"An intensive anti-Army campaign has been underway for some time now in Macedonia and the JNA's position and role has been presented in a distorted and malevolent way," the Army set out.

A Macedonian soldier was killed in the anti-Army demonstrations in Split, Croatia, on May 6. The incident was followed by protest rallies in Macedonia, demanding that Macedonian recruits not serve their military term outside Macedonian territory.

All Macedonian parliamentary groups today demanded that Macedonia protect the lives of its soldiers who are being sent to the crisis regions to "wage someone else's war for no reason at all."

Soldiers' Parents To Organize Skopje Protest

AU1709111291 Skopje Radio Macedonia Network in Macedonian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The staff of the parents' organization called Save Macedonian Soldiers Sent to the Army [word indistinct] of the Balkan War has issued a public statement in which it calls on soldiers' parents and other citizens to meet in front of the Skopje Marshal Tito (?Staff) tomorrow at 0900. It was also announced that a joint trip will be organized to the barracks to which soldiers from Macedonia have been transferred. It was said that transport will be provided for this.